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PART 38.

FURTHER CORRESPONDENCE

RESPECTING THE

AFFAIRS OF MOROCCO.

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July to September 1908.

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Further Correspondence respecting the Affairs of Morocco.

PART 38.

[22717] No. 1.

Mr. White to Sir Edward Grey.—(*Received July* 1.)

(No. 39.)
(Telegraphic.) *En clair.* *Tangier, July* 1, 1908.

SULTAN'S troops have retaken Azemour. No details.

[23233] No. 2.

Mr. White to Sir Edward Grey.—(*Received July* 6.)

(No. 153. Confidential.)
Sir, *Tangier, June* 26, 1908.

WITH reference to Sir G. Lowther's despatch No. 123 of the 26th ultimo, I have the honour to report that Cid-el-Menebhi informed me some days ago that M. Bellaire had called upon him, and had inquired whether he knew of any thoroughly trustworthy person who could act as a means of communication with Mulai Hafid, in order that the French Legation might be authoritatively informed as to the line he intended to follow, in case he should obtain the Throne, in regard to the engagements entered into by the Sultan. El Menebhi, in reply, mentioned the name of Erzini, a Tetuan Notable, who was shortly arriving here on a visit to him, and M. Bellaire then said he would consult the French Minister and speak to him again on the subject later. El Menebhi inquired of me what he should do when M. Bellaire again referred to the matter.

I reminded El Menebhi that he had been frequently warned by this Legation to avoid all intervention, direct or indirect, in the affairs of Mulai Hafid, and that we had given formal assurances on this subject to the French Minister as well as to the Sultan and Makhzen. I should therefore prefer his taking no action in the matter until I had had an opportunity of speaking on the subject with M. Regnault.

El Menebhi replied in this sense to M. Bellaire when he next went to see him, and M. Bellaire accordingly called upon me and explained the matter. His account differed from that of El Menebhi's, in that he stated that it was El Menebhi who had made the proposal and not himself; that when discussing Mulai Hafid one day El Menebhi had observed that the French Legation did not know him, and quite misjudged him, as he was well-disposed towards Europeans, and willing to carry out the obligations entered into by the Sultan at Algeciras; that on his inquiring how they could be assured of this, El Menebhi answered that if they would communicate with Mulai Hafid they would receive the necessary assurances. M. Bellaire added that it was only in his private capacity that he had proposed to enter into indirect relations with Mulai Hafid, but that he had consulted M. Regnault, who considered it would be interesting to have Mulai Hafid's views.

I subsequently took an opportunity of mentioning the matter to M. Regnault, explaining my reasons for having requested El Menebhi to do nothing until I had spoken to him. M. Regnault quite agreed with me, and said that El Menebhi was giving the matter greater importance than he had anticipated. He had thought that it might be interesting to have Mulai Hafid's views and intentions, if it were possible to

do so unofficially and indirectly without the Legation being in any way involved. That would not in the least imply that they were at all wavering in their loyalty to or support of the Sultan. As, however, there appeared now to be a question of the Legation entering into indirect communication with Mulai Hafid, he preferred that the matter should go no further lest it should give rise to misunderstanding.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HERBERT E. WHITE.

[23234] No. 3.

Mr. White to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received July 6.)

(No. 154.)
Sir, *Tangier, June 27, 1908.*

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith the usual summary of events in Morocco for the past week.

I have, &c.
(Signed) H. E. WHITE.

Inclosure in No. 3.

Summary of Events for the week ending June 27, 1908.

NO development of great importance has taken place in the situation during the past week. It would appear that, for the present, Mulai Hafid is content with his Proclamation at Alcazar and Tetuan, and will endeavour to further consolidate his position before attempting to secure his Proclamation at the other ports.

Further reinforcements have arrived at Mogador with a view to strengthening the expedition destined to retake the southern capital for the Sultan. Meanwhile it appears that considerable tension has arisen between the Government authorities and Kaïd Anflus, who is reported to demand the disbanding of the new police as the price of his co-operation in the expedition to Marakesh. On the other hand the Hafidist army, which had for some time been stationed in the district, has now completely dispersed, the remnants of the force having placed themselves at the disposal of the Governor of Mogador together with two mountain guns. Severe fighting has been taking place between the Hafidist forces and Kaïd 'Mtoogi, and it is reported that the latter is hard pressed.

The Vice-Consul at Mazagan reports that the soldiers guarding the town gates have been replaced by police, who are now patrolling the town. The Governor, Mr. Spinney states, is much alarmed by the Proclamation of Mulai Hafid at Fez, Alcazar, and Tetuan, but the town is tranquil, though there is no doubt that the population are almost unanimously in favour of the Pretender.

Mr. Spinney pays a tribute to the tact of the French Controller of the Custom-house, who, he states, does all that is possible for the commercial community.

A meeting which was recently held at Rabat between the French Vice-Consul, the Commander of the cruiser "Friant," and the Governors of Rabat and Sallee, in order to inquire into the state of security of the latter town, led to considerable panic among the Jewish population, who concluded that the bombardment of Sallee had been decided upon. A large exodus of Jews at once ensued, which was finally arrested by the action of the Governor, who informed them that there was no cause for alarm.

It is now announced that the Sultan intends to march at the head of an army upon Marakesh. He is to proceed from Rabat through the Showia and Seraghna, from which districts his force will be chiefly recruited, and will thus, it is hoped, arrive without opposition within ten hours' march from Marakesh. Sanguine hopes are expressed as to the result of this expedition, and there is certainly little doubt that, if the Sultan succeeds in retaking Marakesh, he will become master of the south of Morocco, and will thus to a large extent neutralize the successes obtained by the Pretender in the north.

[23235] No. 4.

Mr. White to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received July 6.)

(No. 155. Confidential.)
Sir, *Tangier, June 27, 1908.*

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith a Memorandum by Mr. Irwin of a communication made to him this morning by Cid Guebbas, upon whom he called by request.

Cid Guebbas appeared much put out at the overbearing attitude assumed by the German Minister towards himself and Cid Torres, and complained of the support given by him to the cause of Mulai Hafid, and there can, I think, be little doubt that there are good grounds for the complaint.

The statement of Cid Guebbas in regard to German action at Tetuan is confirmed by Mr. Vice-Consul Bewicke, who reports that upon receipt of a letter from Cid Torres, himself a native of Tetuan, where his family lives, the people of that place, fearing the arrival of foreign ships and the possible landing of troops, became alarmed, and some, at any rate, were considering the advisability of returning to their allegiance to the Sultan. The letter carrier, however, of the German Legation went round the town "like a public crier," assuring the people that there was no cause for alarm, as the German Minister had written to say there was no possibility of ships being sent.

At Fez, too, the Germans appear to be indirectly lending their support to Mulai Hafid. Mr. Consul Macleod informs me that his native interpreter at Fez reports that the German Postal Agent personally delivers letter arriving for Mulai Hafid and his officials; also that the scribe of the German Consulate had publicly delivered to the Grand Vizier messages of welcome and congratulations on the arrival of Mulai Hafid at Fez, stating that the messages were from the German Minister and from the Consul. He asked to speak to the Grand Vizier in private, and a long conversation took place between them in another room.

The report of this would naturally spread in the town and would be calculated to produce a considerable impression, as tending to show that Mulai Hafid has the support of the German Legation.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HERBERT E. WHITE.

Inclosure in No. 4.

Memorandum by Mr. Irwin.

AT Cid Guebbas' request I called upon him this morning, when he told me that on Wednesday morning he and Cid Torres received a surprise visit from Dr. Rosen, who somewhat brusquely asked if it was true that Cid Torres had written a letter to the Tetuan people threatening them with European intervention unless they returned to their allegiance to Moulai Abd-el-Aziz, and if so, what he meant by sending such a letter. Cid Guebbas answered him that a letter had been written to them, warning them that their action was likely to cause trouble and disturbance, especially in the event of hostilities between the Sultan and his brother, which might lead to European intervention as had happened elsewhere. Cid Guebbas read to me the letter in question, of which the following is the gist: He reproached them for their ingratitude towards Moulai Abd-el-Aziz, who had always been very good to them and had expended large sums on their protection in the time of their trouble; he warned them that almost all their properties were at Tangier and the other coast towns, and that these could be confiscated and sold for the benefit of the Makhzen, but that he would act as intercessor on their behalf to prevent this. He went on to say that their action would be likely to lead to "such measures on the part of Europeans as he prayed God to avert," and begging them to leave every other cause for that of Moulai Abd-el-Aziz. He recalled to them what treatment had been meted out to the Fez Makhzen officials by Moulai Hafid from which they should take warning, and ended by saying that if they would not do as he requested he had the intention to withdraw all the members of his family from Tetuan and leave it to its fate.

Since then letters had been received from Tetuan by Cid Torres, informing him that the German postal agent there was spreading a report that he had been instructed

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to tell the Tetuan people that they need pay no heed to the threats contained in Cid Torres' letter as they had nothing to fear from any one either by sea or by land. Cid Guebbas said that before this report was spread the people were willing and intended to desert Moulai Hafid's cause.

The German Minister then, he said, with an air of great annoyance, asked how it was that he had received no official notification of the intention of the Makhzen to sell their two steamers, the "Saidi" and "Sid et Turki," by auction, which he had first seen in a notice in a French newspaper, and he demanded that a written promise be given him that the salaries of the Germans employed on one of those ships should be paid from the proceeds of the sale. Cid Guebbas replied that the notice had been published in the French and Spanish local papers, and that no other notification was requisite, and as regards the pay of the German subjects, if he wrote him giving the details he would submit the matter to the Makhzen, and reply in writing informing him of the Makhzen's decision on the point, as he was not authorized to give any promises of this nature.

Dr. Rosen also asked Cid Torres and Cid Guebbas to appoint an hour to inspect the harbour works here which have been carried out by a German firm, but on Cid Guebbas inquiring with what object and whether they were to inspect them with a view to taking them over for account of the Makhzen, Dr. Rosen said no, by no means, but merely to inspect the work done. As Cid Guebbas thought that the request hid some manœuvre to inveigle them into holding an inspection and expressing their satisfaction at the manner in which the work has been carried out he begged to be excused unless the works were to be taken over definitely by the Makhzen.

Cid Guebbas also told me that he had yesterday received a visit from M. Merry del Val, to whom he expressed his surprise that the intention to send a Spanish cruiser to Tetuan had not been carried out. I asked him whether an arrangement had ever been made that one was to be sent, and he told me that directly with M. Merry del Val no arrangement had been made, but he had the best information from other quarters that such an arrangement had been made with France, and had it been carried out would have had the best effect on the people of Tetuan. The idea, in Cid Guebbas' opinion, seems to have been dropped after the interview Dr. Rosen had had with Cid Torres and himself.

The Spanish Minister, in reply, said the Spanish Government had its vessels, its soldiers, and its officers in a state of preparedness for any emergency at Tetuan, Tangier, or Laraiche, but thought that nothing had happened yet to warrant it in taking any step of the nature desired at Tetuan.

Cid Guebbas spoke very bitterly about the action of the German Minister in this matter, which he declared amounted to an espousal of the cause of Moulai Hafid, and was not at all what would have been expected from a Minister to whose advice they had so recently listened and acted on, and to whose counsels was due, to a great extent, if not entirely, the present position of Abd-el-Aziz and his Government.

Tangier, June 27, 1908.

[23236] No. 5.

Mr. White to Sir Edward Grey.—(*Received July* 6.)

(No. 156. Confidential.)

Sir, *Tangier, June* 28, 1908.

WITH reference to my despatch No. 155 of yesterday, I have the honour to submit herewith copy of a letter the German Minister has addressed to the doyen of the Diplomatic Body, who has circulated it among his colleagues in a letter, copy of which, and of the observations made thereon by the various Representatives, I beg to inclose herewith.

In his letter the German Minister brings to the notice of his colleagues an alleged threat of Cid Torres that if Tetuan did not return to its allegiance to the Sultan, French troops would be landed to punish the town. Dr. Rosen, however, omits to mention that he had seen Cid Torres and had learnt from him that he had made no such threat, but had written that their action was likely to give rise to disturbances which might lead to European intervention. Cid Torres had, in fact, made no mention of the French, and had only referred to an European intervention in the event of the disturbances.

This is indirectly confirmed by Mr. Vice-Consul Bewicke, who refers to the alleged approaching arrival of French and Spanish ships of war merely as a report current in the town, and not as having been threatened by Cid Torres, to whose letter he refers in another part of his despatch.

Dr. Rosen, with the support of his Austrian, Italian, and Dutch colleagues, is making every effort to force on the Diplomatic Body a discussion of this very delicate subject, which the French and Spanish Ministers, with the support of the Russian Minister and myself, are anxious to avoid.

Last Sunday the Austrian Minister, then temporarily acting as doyen, acting probably on the prompting of Dr. Rosen, suddenly invited his colleagues to meet that same afternoon to discuss the measures to be adopted for the security of our nationals. The Circular came to me first, and I raised objections to the meeting being held; the French Minister and others likewise objected, and in the event only the German, Italian, and Dutch Ministers attended.

Count Koziebrodski, however, was determined not to allow the matter to drop, and sent the Circular round again with a Memorandum of the remarks he had intended to make on opening the meeting, had it taken place. I have the honour to transmit herewith copy of this Memorandum, in which Count Koziebrodski refers to rumours as to instructions said to have been given by certain Legations to their nationals in case of troubles arising from the Hafidist moment, and also to talk of the landing of troops, and, after remarking that he does not believe there is any immediate danger for Europeans at Tangier, he invites an exchange of views as to the steps to be taken for their security.

I further beg to transmit a copy of the observations made on the Circular by M. Regnault, who denies the rumour referred to, and states that he had already verbally given the assurances here repeated to Count Koziebrodski, before the latter issued his original Circular calling a meeting. M. Regnault further declares that, should it at any time appear necessary to land troops, he would ask that a meeting of the Diplomatic Body be held to discuss the subject.

The Spanish Minister made a similar declaration, and severely criticized the action of the acting doyen in not having spoken to him on the subject before sending round the Circular, and not having even sent him the first Circular, which he did not see on its first round. He states that he is reporting the matter to his Government, who will decide whether it should submit the incident to the Austrian Government.

The German and Italian Ministers supports their Austrian colleague, whom they thank for his solicitude for the safety of the European colony.

I have repeated my former objections to a meeting being held, and the Circular is still in circulation, some of the Representatives not having yet stated their views.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HERBERT E. WHITE.

Inclosure 1 in No. 5.

Herr Rosen to Count de Koziebrodski.

M. le Doyen et cher Collègue, [*Non datée.*]

JE viens de recevoir de bonne source la nouvelle qu'il règne à Tétouan une agitation semblable à une panique par suite du fait que Cid Torres aurait adressé au Pacha Lebadi, au Cadi Feilah, et autres Notables, une lettre les prévenant que si la ville de Tétouan ne retirait pas la Proclamation de Moulay Hafid et revenait à reconnaître Moulay Abdel Aziz, des bateaux de guerre Français débarqueraient des troupes pour châtier la ville

La personne de laquelle j'ai reçu cette information ajoute que devant les menaces de Cid Torres l'agitation qui s'est emparée de la population de Tétouan pourrait amener des événements qui mettraient en danger la sûreté des Européens résidants dans la dite ville.

En raison de la gravité de cette situation j'ai cru de mon devoir de porter ce qui précède à votre connaissance en vous priant de bien vouloir en informer nos honorables collègues. Je tiens les informations qui me sont parvenues à votre disposition.

Veuillez, &c.
(Signé) ROSEN.

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Inclosure 2 in No. 5.

Observations by the Representatives at Tangier on Herr Rosen's Letter.

Messieurs et chers Collègues, *Tanger, le* 26 *Juin*, 1908.

M. LE Ministre d'Allemagne adresse la lettre ci-incluse au Décanat en le priant de la communiquer au Corps Diplomatique.

Agréez, &c.
(Signé) BUISSERET.

Je déclare absolument sans fondement les menaces de débarquement de troupes Françaises à Tétouan. Il est facile de se rendre compte que cette prétendue intervention n'a pu être prise au sérieux, quand on sait qu'aucun navire Français n'a jamais stationné devant cette ville. C'est d'ailleurs à l'Espagne que reviendrait la tâche de veiller à la sécurité des étrangers à Tétouan, le cadre des instructeurs de la police Chériffienne y étant Espagnol.

J'aurais fourni de suite ces assurances à mon collègue d'Allemagne s'il m'avait interrogé à ce sujet avant de saisir de la question le Corps Diplomatique.

(Signé) REGNAULT.

Tanger, le 26 *Juin*, 1908.

Les informations reçues ce matin à la Légation d'Espagne par rekkas spécial me permettent d'affirmer que la sécurité des Européens à Tétouan ne semble pas être en danger pour le moment. Si elle l'était véritablement l'Espagne ferait tout ce qui dépendrait d'elle pour y maintenir l'ordre, de même qu'à Tanger et Larache, et aux alentours de ses possessions au Maroc, d'accord avec l'Acte d'Algésiras et les principes généraux du droit international. Je suis autorisé à le déclarer ainsi aux Représentants des Puissances accrédités auprès de Sa Majesté le Sultan et j'en ai déjà prévenu le Maghzen.

(Signé) ALFONSO MERRY DEL VAL.

La communication faite par le Ministre d'Allemagne à notre doyen nous offre l'opportunité de lire avec la plus grande satisfaction les explicites et rassurantes déclarations de nos collègues de France et d'Espagne. Cette satisfaction nous serait manquée si les explications se seraient passées seulement entre les Ministres d'Allemagne et de France; et je trouve non seulement juste, mais aussi nécessaire, que les nouvelles, mêmes les plus extravagantes, qui cependant alarment la population, soient entre nous communiquées dans le but précisément de les démentir et de rassurer nos connationaux.

Il reste toujours à vérifier un fait très grave dont j'espère voudra s'occuper notre doyen. Est-il vrai que Torres a écrit la lettre en question et qu'il s'est arbitrairement permis de mettre en jeu la menace d'une intervention militaire Française, afin d'influencer sur l'esprit de la population de Tétouan et favoriser une agitation dangereuse?

(Signé) NERAZZINI.

Tanger, le 26 *Juin*, 1908.

D'accord avec notre collègue d'Italie, je me permets d'ajouter que puisque Torres a fait parvenir aux Notables de Tétouan la menace d'une intervention de bateaux de guerre, menace qui a produit une grande agitation parmi la population indigène, il me paraît avant tout nécessaire de faire connaître au public le fait que Cid Torres n'était aucunement autorisé à se servir d'une pareille menace dans le conflit dynastique, dans lequel les Puissances Signataires de l'Acte d'Algésiras observent la plus stricte neutralité.

Je sais que les Européens résidants à Tétouan désirent ardemment une pareille déclaration à laquelle l'on devrait donner, à mon avis, la plus grande publicité par la presse locale, dans le but de mettre fin à l'agitation qui règne à Tétouan et qui pourrait entraîner des conséquences graves.

L'incident de Tétouan est une preuve éclatante, comme la réunion du Corps

Diplomatique proposée par moi a été désirable, réunion que plusieurs de nos collègues ont déclinée. Un échange de vues, une ligne de conduite arrêtée en commun et publiée ensuite, aurait rendu impossible l'action incorrecte et dangereuse de Cid Torres.

Ne voulant, pour ma part, encourir aucune responsabilité, je crois de mon devoir de proposer encore une fois une réunion du Corps Diplomatique.

(Signé) KOZIEBRODSKI.

Je me rallie entièrement aux observations faites par M. le Ministre d'Italie et à sa proposition de prier notre honorable doyen de faire une enquête sur la vérité des faits imputés à Cid Torres. S'il paraît que ce haut fonctionnaire a vraiment écrit une lettre de ce genre, M. le Doyen voudra sans doute saisir le Corps Diplomatique des mesures qu'il a cru pouvoir prendre pour empêcher à l'avenir de pareilles démarches arbitraires du Maghzen, qui pourraient établir un sérieux danger pour les colonies Européennes.

Si notre honorable doyen croit nécessaire de convoquer une réunion du Corps Diplomatique, je ne manquerai certainement pas d'y être présent.

(Signé) C. L. DE JONGE.

Vu.
(Signé) GUMMERÉ.

Les nouvelles qui me parviennent de Tétouan se conforment tout à fait avec celles du Ministre d'Espagne. Il n'y a donc, selon moi, pas d'incident de Tétouan qui motive l'intervention du Corps Diplomatique.

Intervenir dans les affaires intérieures du pays me paraîtrait contraire aux dispositions de l'Acte d'Algésiras, et ne justifierait pas, selon moi, l'attitude suggérée. L'Acte d'Algésiras, en effet, proclame la souveraineté du Sultan reconnu par les Puissances Signataires. C'est pourquoi j'estime qu'il n'y a pas lieu de réunir le Corps Diplomatique pour délibérer sur une question qui n'est pas de notre ressort.

(Signé) BOTKINE.

Tanger, le 27 *Juin*, 1908.

Mes renseignements ne s'accordent pas avec ceux de M. le Ministre d'Allemagne. Mais même si Cid Torres aurait fait les menaces qui lui ont été imputées, ce serait la Légation de France qui, seule, à mon humble opinion, aurait le droit de demander des explications à Cid Torres. Pour ma part, je ne me sens pas autorisé ni à faire une telle démarche moi-même, ni à autoriser notre honorable doyen de le faire en mon nom. Je ne veux pas m'immiscer dans les affaires intérieures du pays, et je préfère ne pas assister à une réunion pour les discuter.

(Signé) HERBERT E. WHITE.

Inclosure 3 in No. 5.

Memorandum by Austrian Minister.

IL s'est répandu le bruit dans la ville qu'une ou deux Légations ont fait parvenir à leurs nationaux certaines instructions pour le cas de troubles à la suite du mouvement Hafidiste. Je dois tout de suite ajouter que les bruits qui me sont parvenus étaient, comme il arrive toujours dans des occasions pareilles, peut-être exagérés. On avait parlé de réunion, tandis qu'après informations prises il paraît qu'il s'agissait simplement de rappeler les consignes de l'année passée et surtout les différents points de ralliement..

Néanmoins, ces démarches ont produit une certaine alarme dans la population de Tanger, et c'est la raison pour laquelle j'ai cru de mon devoir de vous réunir pour un échange de vues sur la situation, d'autant plus que c'est à tous les Représentants étrangers qu'incombe le devoir de veiller sur la sécurité de leurs nationaux.

Le fait que telle ou autre Légation a cru utile d'envisager dès à présent des éventualités sérieuses, constitue un devoir pour tous les autres Représentants de s'occuper également de la situation, pour ne pas encourir une grave responsabilité et s'exposer au reproche d'incurie ou de négligence.

Autant que moi, je peux me rendre compte de la situation, je ne crois pas qu'il y

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ait danger immédiate pour les Européens à Tanger. Les événements de Tétouan sont une preuve que l'évolution politique et la proclamation de Moulay Hafid peuvent se dérouler d'une manière tout à fait pacifique. Aussi longtemps que les Représentants étrangers et leurs colonies s'abstiennent de s'immiscer dans les affaires intérieures du pays, ils ne courent, d'après moi, aucun risque. Je crois que vous tous serez du même avis.

Je considère un échange de vues à ce sujet comme très désirable et d'autant plus utile qu'il nous donnera une base pour agir sur nos nationaux en les tranquillisant.

Il y a un mot surtout qui produit une vive inquiétude : c'est le mot "débarquement."

C'est surtout ce point-là qu'il faudrait éclaircir, puisque pareille crainte me paraît absolument hors de cause. Nous pourrons par conséquent tranquilliser nos nationaux à ce sujet-là.

J'ouvre les débats, et je prie chacun de mes collègues d'exprimer son avis sur la situation.

A la suite de cet échange d'idées, nous pourrons tomber d'accord sur la ligne de conduite à suivre.

Inclosure 4 in No. 5.

Observations of French Minister.

L'EXPOSÉ du Comte Koziebrodski appelle quelques observations, que je prends la liberté d'indiquer sommairement ci-après :—

1. Malgré le désir du Comte Koziebrodski, des bruits ont circulé sur une "réunion du Corps Diplomatique" qui se serait tenue hier, et l'opinion s'en est immédiatement inquiétée.

2. Comme le dit le Comte Koziebrodski, aucun Représentant étranger ne désir, sans doute, s'immiscer dans les affaires intérieures du pays, et des prescriptions ont toujours été adressées dans ce sens par la Légation de France à ses ressortissants et protégés.

3. Je ne puis que renouveler ici les assurances que j'ai données verbalement au Comte Koziebrodski et que j'ai déjà formulées à la suite de la Circulaire du 21 Juin :—

(*a.*) Il n'y a pas eu de réunion de la colonie Française depuis près d'un an,

(*b.*) Ni de rappel fait à la colonie des instructions antérieures.

(*c.*) Les points de ralliement en cas de danger imminent ont été fixés en Juillet 1907 ; mention en a été faite dans la presse locale. A ce moment, aucune Légation n'a cru utile de demander la convocation du Corps Diplomatique.

(*d.*) Depuis lors aucune mesure extraordinaire de sûreté n'a été prise ni concertée avec une autre Légation.

(*e.*) La colonie Française n'a jamais été avisée de l'éventualité d'un débarquement que ne justifie en aucune façon la situation actuelle à Tanger.

4. Si, comme le suggérait le Comte Koziebrodski, une discussion s'ouvrait sur l'éventualité d'un débarquement, loin de tranquilliser l'opinion, on risquerait de provoquer des alarmes. Pour ma part, si j'entrevoyais un danger pour la sécurité des colonies paraissant de nature à faire envisager la nécessité d'un débarquement, je ne manquerais pas à ce moment, et conformément aux instructions de mon Gouvernement, de provoquer une réunion du Corps Diplomatique et de me concerter avec lui.

5. La France a assumé avec l'Espagne la tâche de veiller au maintien de la sécurité dans les ports.

En résumé, je crois, comme le Comte Koziebrodski, que la situation locale est en ce moment parfaitement calme ; c'est pourquoi je verrais de sérieux inconvénients à ouvrir les débats à ce sujet. On irait ainsi à l'encontre du but poursuivi et le Corps Diplomatique risquerait d' "encourir une grave responsabilité."

(Signé) REGNAULT.

[23091] No. 6.

Count de Salis to Sir Edward Grey.—(*Received July* 6.)

(No. 287.)

Sir, *Berlin, June* 28, 1908.

IT is reported in the "Frankfurter Zeitung" that the envoys of Mulai Hafid, who, since their interview with Baron Langwerth, reported by Sir F. Lascelles in his Excellency's despatch No. 223 of the 14th ultimo, have been staying privately in Berlin, have informed the Imperial Foreign Office that they intend shortly to return to Morocco. At the same time that they made this communication they handed in at the Foreign Office a letter which had been addressed to them by Mulai Hafid, couched in the following terms :—

"On my journey to Mekines and Fez, all the tribes through whose territory I passed received me with honour, and accompanied me for long distances on my way. Never has such a progress been made by any Sultan of Morocco. At Mekines the Shereefs, the Ulema, the Notables, and the merchants of Fez awaited me and conducted me to the holy place of Mulai Idris, where I asked the blessing of God on my country and myself. Peace and security reign in Fez and the country through which I passed. General satisfaction is expressed at the new order of things. The administration is orderly ; I have appointed Governors in all districts of the country, to administer the government in my name. Trade and industry follow their usual course. Provisions and all the necessaries of life are obtainable in large quantities at reasonable prices. All Morocco is true to me and my Government, for we are in the way, with God's help, to restore prosperity to the country.

"You should inform the Government of the German Emperor of our success, and convey the information to the Chancellor of the Empire and the German nation. After the successes we have attained, we trust we may receive the support of Germany in our efforts to restore Morocco to a normal state, and to bring about cordial relations between our two nations."

I have, &c.

(Signed) J. DE SALIS.

[23630] No. 7.

Sir F. Bertie to Sir Edward Grey.—(*Received July* 9.)

(No. 273.)

Sir, *Paris, July* 8, 1908.

M. JAURÈS, the Socialist leader, yesterday asked the Government a question as to the meaning of General d'Amade's advance on Azemmour. He pointed out that this step was in contradiction to the policy of the Government which had received the approbation of Parliament. This policy was non-intervention in the struggle between the present Sultan and Mulai Hafid, restriction of military operations to the Chaouia country, and the preparation of measures which might lead to the eventual retreat of the troops. He insinuated that there were two policies with regard to Morocco, one avowed and the other unavowed, and he called the attention of the House to the possibility of its being confronted with a *fait accompli*, and of its being forced to accept a situation of which it did not approve.

M. Pichon, in reply, gave an account of the reports received from General d'Amade. His reconnaissance towards Azemmour had been undertaken in connection with the pacification of the Chaouia district, into which large supplies of arms had been arriving from that town. The authorities there had also refused to allow couriers for the French Consulate at Mazagan to pass. General d'Amade had summoned the town to open its gates ; this was done, and no force had been required. The French then retired. The Government, on learning of the advance on Azemmour, had reminded General d'Amade of the necessity for not extending the sphere of his operations. M. Pichon made it clear that the Government had not intended to convey any blame of General d'Amade, in whom the Government had every confidence.

I have, &c.

(Signed) FRANCIS BERTIE.

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[24090] No. 8.

Mr. White to Sir Edward Grey.—(*Received July* 13.)

(No. 159.)

Sir, *Tangier, July* 1, 1908.

THE last instalment of the loan of 80,000*l.* made to the Moorish Government last autumn by French banks, as reported in Sir G. Lowther's despatch No. 431 of the 1st November, will be payable on the 15th instant, after which date the Makhzen will be dependent on their own resources, unless they can succeed in raising another loan.

Fortunately the custom-house receipts have been exceptionally heavy of late at all the ports, merchants being anxious to clear all their goods from the custom-house stores before they become liable for storage dues on them under the new Customs Stores Regulations. The amount due to the French bondholders for the quarter having thus been speedily paid off, the whole of the customs receipts were paid into the State Bank for account of the Makhzen, and it is calculated that the Sultan is now provided with sufficient funds to carry him to the middle of September.

In the meantime an effort is being made to raise a loan of 3,000,000 fr. in France. The State Bank and other leading banks, however, show no great anxiety to take up this loan, which will be guaranteed by the Government properties at three ports where these properties are not yet engaged, one of these ports being Tetuan, at present in the hands of the Hafidists.

I understand that Sid Mohammed Mokri is about to return to Tangier. It is probable that the object of his visit is to negotiate the loan, in which case he may have to return to Paris.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HERBERT E. WHITE.

[24091] No. 9.

Mr. White to Sir Edward Grey.—(*Received July* 13.)

(No. 160.)

Sir, *Tangier, July* 4, 1908.

IN my despatch No. 156 of the 28th ultimo I had the honour to transmit copy of a Circular of the doyen of the Diplomatic Body and of a letter inclosed therein from the German Minister, alleging that Sid Torres had written to the authorities at Tetuan threatening them that "si la ville de Tétouan ne retirait pas la Proclamation de Moulai Hafid, et revenait à reconnaitre Moulai Abdelaziz, des bateaux de guerre Français débarqueraient des troupes pour châtier la ville."

The true terms of Sid Torres' letter here referred to were stated in a note to the following effect made by the French Minister on the Circular on its second round :—

"J'ai pensé qu'il convenait d'entendre aussi Torres sur le propos qui lui est attribué. Il m'a fait communiquer le texte de sa Proclamation aux Tétouanais, au milieu de longs développements de forme Arabe ; la lettre a cinq pages dans la traduction ; j'ai relevé le passage suivant :—

"'Suivre Fez est une bonne chose pour ce en quoi il y a utilité et non pour ce en quoi il y aurait dommage ; car, dans ce dernier cas, ce serait une chose grave, que Dieu nous en préserve ; c'était là une chose possible dans un autre moment et non maintenant, car les étrangers se proposent de faire ce dont nous demandons à Dieu de nous préserver. Et nous, par la grâce de Dieu, nous serons un rempart solide entre vous et eux, si vous vous répentez de cette faute, dont vous avez sali la page de vos bonnes actions, qui étaient plus pures que le ciel d'été. Tel est notre conseil et nous espérons que Dieu vous remettra sur la bonne voie et vous inspirera ce qui pourra servir vos intérêts particuliers et généraux, &c.'

"Il n'est donc pas parlé de la 'venue de bateaux de guerre Français, qui débarqueraient des troupes pour châtier la ville.'

"Je me range, d'ailleurs, aux considérations exposées sur le fond de l'affaire par mes collègues de Russie et d'Angleterre, et j'exprime également le même avis qu'eux en ce qui concerne la question No. 1."

Dr. Rosen, who, it must be remembered, had seen Sid Torres and been informed of the contents of his letter before he first raised the question by addressing the letter

to the doyen in which the misstatement is, apparently knowingly, made, that the landing of French troops was threatened if Tetuan did not return to its allegiance to the Sultan, now attempts to change his ground, and observes on the Circular : "Quant à un débarquement de troupes Françaises à Tétouan, aucun Européen n'en a probablement envisagé la possibilité. C'est aussi pourquoi je n'ai pas jugé à propos d'en saisir notre collègue de France, la France n'ayant jamais été mise en cause."

The last sentence is surprising, considering that Dr. Rosen's letter with the specific reference to the landing of troops from French ships of war is attached to the Circular.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HERBERT E. WHITE.

[24093] No. 10.

Mr. White to Sir Edward Grey.—(*Received July* 13.)

(No. 162.)

Sir, *Tangier, July* 4, 1908.

WITH reference to my despatch No. 150 of the 23rd ultimo, I have the honour to report that the three Englishmen Messrs. Redman and Beadle and Captain Belton are still at Fez. The two latter are evidently the persons referred to in Lord Mountmorres' letter to you of the 11th ultimo.

I have been unable to ascertain definitely the nature of their business, but they informed Hadj Taher Mequar, the native interpreter of the British Consulate at Fez, that they desire to obtain a Concession for a railway from Mazagan to Marakesh.

It appears that Mulai Hafid sent a messenger to inquire of them the nature of their business, but they declined to reveal it to any one but Mulai Hafid or one of his Viziers. They were subsequently received by Mulai Hafid's Grand Vizier, El Glawi, and by his Vizier for Foreign Affairs, Kaïd Aissa, who entertained them at a sumptuous lunch. Shortly afterwards Mulai Hafid himself granted them an audience, and, if I am rightly informed, whilst saying that he could not at present agree to their proposals, invited them to prolong their stay at Fez.

Before receiving these gentlemen Mulai Hafid sent for Hadj Taher Mequar and inquired of him the object of their visit to Fez. Hadj Taher replied that he had received no letter about them from Tangier, but added that he believed they represented a good Company. What grounds he had for this belief he does not tell Mr. Consul MacLeod.

Hadj Taher now reports to Mr. MacLeod the arrival at Fez of another party of Europeans : Mr. Ashmead-Bartlett, accompanied by Mr. E. P. Carleton, British Consular Agent at Alcazar, his brother, Mr. H. Carleton, a naturalized American citizen, and Dr. Belenguer, a Spanish doctor attached to the Spanish Consulate at Fez. I have no information as to the object of these gentlemen's visit to Fez, Mr. Consular Agent Carleton having never communicated to me on the subject. Immediately upon hearing a report a few days since of his having left for Fez I addressed him a despatch at that place instructing him to return at once to his post and to furnish me with explanations as to his having proceeded to Fez without my knowledge or consent. I shall have the honour to communicate to you Mr. Carleton's reply upon receipt.

The Spanish Minister informs me he had no knowledge of Dr. Belenguer's intention to go to Fez, but that, although a military doctor, he is at present unattached and holds no official position.

It is to be regretted that these parties of Englishmen should visit Fez at the present moment, and especially that a British Consular official should himself have accompanied one of the parties.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HERBERT E. WHITE.

[24095] No. 11.

Mr. White to Sir Edward Grey.—(*Received July* 13.)

(No. 164.)

Sir, *Tangier, July* 6, 1908.

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith the usual summary of events for the past week.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HERBERT E. WHITE.

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Inclosure in No. 11.

Summary of Events for week ending July 4, 1908.

THE most important event to be recorded during the past week is, of course, the recapture of Azemour by the Sultan's forces, which took place on the 30th ultimo. No very detailed report has as yet reached here, but Mr. Consul Madden learns that the town was regained by the Azizists in the following manner :—

There appears without doubt to have been some co-operation between the French and the Makhzen troops. The latter are reported by Vice-Consul Spinney to have advanced on Azemour from Mazagan on the morning of the 30th instant. Upon arriving close to the town they divided their forces, part of them proceeding towards the gates, where it appears they were received with open arms by the townspeople, and part remaining with the guns on a hill overlooking the town. They were at once attacked by the tribes and suffered considerable loss, in addition losing their guns. The action of the French in this affair is not very clear. It would appear that the French General, on arriving within one hour's march of Azemour, called upon the Kaïd and townspeople to recognize Abdul Aziz as Sultan, on pain of bombardment of the town. A meeting was held, and it was decided that opposition was useless, whereupon the Kaïd fled to Marakesh. Doubtless these threats of the French General contributed in some degree to the "open-armed" nature of the reception accorded by the townspeople to the Sultan's troops. It is reported that there was no fighting against the French, who have not actually entered Azemour, but encamped on the opposite bank of the river.

At Rabat preparations are being made for the Sultan to leave for Marakesh on the 15th, but it is doubtful if his departure will really take place then, if at all.

Mr. Vice-Consul Wilkinson reports from Mogador the death of the Governor Bel Ghazi. He was, it seems, a good and faithful servant to the Government, and in him the Sultan loses one of his staunchest supporters. He had succeeded in obtaining the affection and respect of the native population, while his death will be much regretted by the European community.

News has reached here from Fez to the effect that the mehalla for Marakesh left on the 28th ultimo under the command of Kaïd Omar Suktani. It is to traverse the Zayan territory, where it will be reinforced by a contingent of 500 horsemen from that tribe. Another army is to be dispatched shortly to Larache under the command of Kaïd Rmiki, the Governor of Alcazar, who recently proclaimed Mulai Hafid.

F. R.

[25438] No. 12.

Mr. White to Sir Edward Grey.—(*Received July* 22.)

(No. 168.)

Tangier, July 10, 1908.

Sir,

WITH reference to my despatch No. 143 of the 19th ultimo, I have the honour to report that Mr. Hoffman Philip, Secretary of Legation at Tangier, has been appointed American Delegate on the Claims Commission at Casa Blanca, and Mr. M. C. Jacobus, Legal Adviser of the American Embassy at Paris, has been appointed to lay the claims of American citizens and protégés before the Commission.

I have, &c.

(Signed) HERBERT E. WHITE.

[25072] No. 13.

Mr. White to Sir Edward Grey.—(*Received July* 20.)

(No. 169.)

Tangier, July 11, 1908.

Sir,

RAISULI came to Tangier about the middle of last month to see about the purchase of some house property at Tangier out of the 15,000*l.* deposited at the State Bank. Having satisfied myself that the property in question was worth the sum to be paid (2,199*l.* 3*s.* 1*d.*), I authorized the purchase under the terms of the Agreement. The title-deeds are in the possession of this Legation, and will be deposited at the State Bank.

Whilst here Raisuli called at the Legation and informed me that he had hitherto been able to persuade the tribes in this neighbourhood to remain loyal to the Sultan, but that since the proclamation of Mulai Hafid at Alcazar the tribes were all coming round to him, and he wished to know my views on the subject. I informed him that Abdul Aziz was the only Sultan recognized by His Majesty's Government and by all the Powers, and His Majesty was still acknowledged at all the ports and by some of the tribes of the interior; that I could not in any way give him instructions to take an active part in supporting the Sultan, and that he could, if he wished, abstain from all action in the matter—he was a private individual and could keep quiet—but that he must not carry out a propaganda for Mulai Hafid, as His Majesty's Government would certainly view that with displeasure.

Raisuli hinted that if he was named Governor of the district he could keep the people loyal to the Sultan. I let him understand that I could not take the initiative in any such proposal. He subsequently saw Sib Guebbas, who, however, put him off with an evasive answer.

Raisuli left Tangier on the 15th June, and I heard from the French and Spanish Ministers the following day that it was believed Raisuli was going to attend a meeting to be held at a place some 20 miles out of Tangier for the purpose of bringing about the proclamation of Mulai Hafid. I at once wrote to Raisuli reminding him of our conversation, and warning him not to do anything that would meet with the disapproval of His Majesty's Government. He replied that the meeting had been held, and that the hill tribes had decided to proclaim Mulai Hafid, but that he had not attended the meeting, and was going to attend merely to his own agricultural interests and not interfere in politics, as the Makhzen did not require his assistance.

A few days since Sid Guebbas and the French Minister both informed me that they had heard that Raisuli had received letters from Mulai offering him the appointment of Governor of the tribes in this neighbourhood, and that he was secretly carrying on a propaganda in favour of Mulai Hafid, and that people who stated they were his friends were active at public meetings in the country urging the tribesmen to compel the Tangier Province to proclaim Mulai Hafid, and also to protest against the erection of police barracks outside the town.

Both M. Regnault and Guebbas were anxious that I should prevail upon Raisuli to leave his farm, situated between Tangier and Arzila, and return to Tazerout. M. Regnault also stated that he had heard that Raisuli was introducing arms in contraband on the coast near his farm.

I do not attach too much importance to the reports that have reached Sid Guebbas, as they come from enemies of Raisuli, and are probably much exaggerated, even if founded on fact, and it seems to me that Raisuli would not be likely to risk incurring the displeasure of His Majesty's Government. I, however, have addressed a letter to Raisuli requesting him to use his influence with his people to prevent them from joining the agitators, and have asked him to come into Tangier to discuss the matter with me.

In the meantime the Basha has arrested two of the principal agitators, and a meeting that was to have been held yesterday did not take place.

Notwithstanding the meetings that have been held, the district is perfectly quiet.

I have, &c.

(Signed) HERBERT E. WHITE.

[25075] No. 14.

Mr. White to Sir Edward Grey.—(*Received July* 20.)

(No. 172.)

Tangier, July 11, 1908.

Sir,

WITH reference to my despatch No. 162 of the 4th instant, I have the honour to report that Mr. Consul MacLeod has been informed by his native interpreter at Fez that, so far as he can remember, Messrs. Beadle, Belton, and Redman's proposals in regard to the Concession for a railway from Mazagan to Marakesh are as follows :—

1. The immediate payment to Mulai Hafid of 12,500,000 fr.
2. The Company to have the use and profit of the railway for thirty years.
3. The Company to have the right of working minerals within a certain specified distance on each side of the railway.
4. The Moorish Government to receive 30 per cent. of the profits.

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These three gentlemen are still at Fez as the guests of Mulai Hafid. Upon first hearing the report that they were supposed to have been sent on a mission by His Majesty's Government, I took steps to let it be known both here and at Fez that there was no foundation whatever for the report.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HERBERT E. WHITE.

[25076] No. 15.

Mr. White to Sir Edward Grey.—(*Received July* 20.)

(No. 173.)
Sir, *Tangier, July* 12, 1908.

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith a summary of events in Morocco for the past week.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HERBERT E. WHITE.

Inclosure in No. 15.

Summary of Events for week ending July 11, 1908.

THERE is but little of interest to record during the past week.

At Azemour the French appear to be guarding the town gates, while intrusting the task of keeping order within the walls to the Moorish police from Mazagan. There is no truth in the reports that a protest has been made against the French action at Azemour by any of the foreign Representatives here.

At Tangier, Ben Abdessadek has been appointed Basha. It will be remembered that this official was dismissed at the demand of Raisuli as one of the conditions of the release of Mr. Perdicaris. He and Raisuli would appear now to have settled their differences.

Baron von Wangenheim, the new German Minister *ad interim*, arrived here on the 11th instant to take the place of Dr. Rosen, who has proceeded to Berlin on leave of absence.

The Governor of Tetuan, Sid Lebadi, fled to Ceuta during the night of the 6th instant, fearing, no doubt, that punishment was awaiting him on the arrival of the new Governor for the lukewarm nature of his attitude towards the proclamation of Mulai Hafid. The new Governor, Sid Bokhari, arrived shortly after the flight of Sid Lebadi. It appears that his appointment has not been received by the people of Tetuan with unmixed satisfaction, as he has the reputation of being extremely severe. At present no Hafidist force has reached Tetuan beyond a small body of troops under Kaïd Herbali.

From Rabat it is reported that the departure of the Sultan for Marakesh is imminent, and sanguine hopes are entertained of the ultimate success of this expedition.

An appointment of some interest is that of Sid Taib, the son of El Mokri, as High Commissioner of the State Bank.

Some interest has been aroused by the arrival of the Spanish cruiser "Princesa de Asturias" at Tetuan. It is not clear with what object this ship, which has been for some time anchored in Tangier Bay, has proceeded to Tetuan.

(Initialled) F. R.

P.S.—According to latest news the French have retired north of the Um-er-Rebia River from Azemour, and the Moorish have been withdrawn to Mazagan.

Colonel Müller, Inspector of Police, made a formal protest to the Makhzen against the employment of the police beyond the limits of Mazagan.

F. R.

[25077] No. 16.

Mr. White to Sir Edward Grey.—(*Received July* 20.)

(No. 174.)
Sir, *Tangier, July* 14, 1908.

WITH reference to my despatch No. 172 of the 11th instant and to your despatch No. 103 of the 6th instant, I have the honour to report that news has been received from Fez that Mulai Hafid held an inspection of his troops, when they were drilled by Captain Belton and Mr. Beadle. The results appear to have been considered satisfactory, and it is said that Captain Belton and Mr. Beadle have been appointed Military Instructors by Mulai Hafid.

I am informed that both these gentlemen served in South Africa.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HERBERT E. WHITE.

[25963] No. 17.

Mr. White to Sir Edward Grey.—(*Received July* 27.)

(No. 177.)
Sir, *Tangier, July* 16, 1908.

WITH reference to my despatch No. 169 of the 11th instant, I have the honour to report that Raisuli came into Tangier in answer to my letter and called at the Legation to see me. He assured me most positively that he is not, either himself or indirectly through his followers, doing anything to influence the people in favour of Mulai Hafid, but is merely attending to his own agricultural interests. He promised to give instructions to his people to be very careful not to give any cause for complaint against them.

He complained bitterly of the conduct of the Governor of Arzila and neighbouring tribes towards himself and his employés, and accused the Governor of himself intriguing with Mulai Hafid while professing his loyalty to the Sultan. His declarations had the appearance of sincerity, but I fear one cannot place reliance in the declarations of any Moor, however sincere they may appear. On the other hand, he had previously assured us of the duplicity of Kaïd Ermiki, the Governor of Alcazar, on whose fidelity the Makhzen relied, and events proved the justice of his declarations in this respect.

I desired Raisuli to call upon Sid Guebbas and report to him what he had told me. He was unwilling to go in person, his previous interviews with Sid Guebbas not having been very satisfactory. He, however, agreed to send his confidential agent to Sid Guebbas to explain all to him.

I called upon Sid Guebbas yesterday evening after he had seen Raisuli's agent, and he confessed to me that he was at a loss to know which to believe, Raisuli or the Governor of Arzila, who had each recounted the same facts, merely substituting the name of the other for his own as the principal actor. Sid Guebbas, however, said that the Makhzen could not afford at this juncture to quarrel with the Governor of Arzila, and must at any rate appear to trust him, and give him no excuse for joining Mulai Hafid. They would, however, give him instructions not to interfere with Raisuli and his men, and place no especial restrictions on them, treating them in the same manner as other people. His Excellency thanked me for speaking to Raisuli as I had done, and trusted it would have a good effect.

Raisuli informed me that he is in negotiation for the purchase of other properties at Tangier, and said that he would let me know should he decide to buy them, so that I could satisfy myself as to their value and authorize their purchase.

It is perhaps to be regretted that he should make these purchases, but he obtains a better return for the money in that way, and he is entitled under the terms of the Agreement to make these purchases. I am careful, however, to have the control of the Legation over these properties mentioned in the title-deeds, which are deposited with the Legation, so that our hold on Raisuli is fully maintained.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HERBERT E. WHITE.

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[25966] No. 18.

Mr. White to Sir Edward Grey.—(*Received July 27.*)

(No. 180.) *Tangier, July* 18, 1908.

Sir,

UPON the withdrawal of the Hafidi Governor and troops from Azemour, the Governor of Mazagan sent a small body of the police of that town to assist the troops in maintaining order, but recalled them a few days later to Mazagan.

The incident gave rise to correspondence between Colonel Müller, the Swiss Inspector-General of the Police, and Sid Torres, copies of which were communicated by the former to the acting doyen of the Diplomatic Body, in accordance with Article 8 of the Algeciras Act.

Colonel Müller, in his first letter, draws Sid Torres' attention to the fact that thirty men, drawn from the Mazagan police force, had been detailed for duty at Azemour, and observed that this was contrary to Chapter 1 of the Algeciras Act. Sid Torres, in his reply, explains that it was necessary for the security of Magazan and in the interests of the commerce of that place, to restore the Sultan's authority at Azemour, which had become a resort of smugglers and brigands, who levied tolls on goods entering Mazagan, and that it was for this purpose that the Makhzen had been obliged to temporarily employ the police, which force, he points out, is, by the Algeciras Act, placed under the Sovereign authority of the Sultan.

Colonel Müller replies that, in his opinion, the town police cannot, under the terms of the Algeciras Act, be employed on duty at any distance outside that town, and he maintains that, in view of the difference of opinion which has arisen, it is desirable that an understanding on this point be come to between the Makhzen and the Diplomatic Body.

The doyen circulated Colonel Müller's letters and their inclosures among the foreign Representatives, most of whom have contented themselves with taking cognizance of the documents, some adding that they are referring them to their Governments.

The French Minister, with whom I have spoken on the subject, considers Colonel Müller would have done better not to have raised this question. He does not agree with his views that the police are not to be used outside the limits of the towns in which they are stationed. The point was incidently raised, when the numbers of the police were discussed at the Conference at Algeciras, and their numbers were fixed somewhat higher than would otherwise have been necessary, as it was recognized that they might be called upon to do duty outside the immediate neighbourhood of the towns. M. Regnault informed me that he had heard from Commandant Mangin, the Chief French Instructor of the Police here, that Sid Torres was addressing a further letter to Colonel Müller on the subject.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HERBERT E. WHITE.

Inclosure 1 in No. 18.

Colonel Müller to Doyen of Diplomatic Body.

Tanger, le 7 Juillet, 1908.

M. le Comte,

ME basant sur l'Article 8 de l'Acte Général d'Algésiras, j'ai l'honneur de vous adresser ci-inclus une copie d'un rapport spécial fait en date de ce jour à Sid Torres, Délégué de Sa Majesté Chérifienne à Tanger.

Veuillez, &c.
(Signé) MÜLLER.

Inclosure 2 in No. 18.

Colonel Müller to Sid Torres.

Tanger, le 7 Juillet, 1908.

(Compliments.)

ME basant sur l'Article 7 de l'Acte Général d'Algésiras, j'ai l'honneur d'attirer l'attention de votre Excellence sur le fait que, dans les premiers jours de Juillet, un détachement d'une trentaine d'hommes du tabor de police No. 9 à Mazagan a été envoyé à Azemour avec la mehalla de Sa Majesté Chérifienne pour occuper la ville.

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L'emploi d'une partie du tabor No. 9 à l'occupation d'un port non ouvert au commerce et dans lequel un corps de police n'est pas établi, n'est pas conforme à la teneur du Chapitre 1er de l'Acte d'Algésiras.

Je saisis, &c.
(Signé) MÜLLER.

Inclosure 3 in No. 18.

Sid Guebbas to Colonel Müller.

(Compliments.) *Le 11 Djoumadi et Tani de l'an* 1326.

NOUS avons reçu votre lettre attirant notre attention sur le fait que le 1er du mois de Juillet une partie de la police de Mazagan est allée occuper le port d'Azemour, qui n'est ni ouvert au commerce, ni désigné pour y organiser la police, et que ce fait est contraire au Chapitre 1er de l'Acte d'Algésiras.

D'après l'exposé que vous nous avez fait, il nous a semblé que vous n'avez pas compris suffisamment le vrai sens du cas, et nous commençons par vous exprimer le regret de ce que vous ne nous ayez pas demandé des renseignements, car dans ce cas votre manière de voir les faits mentionnés aurait certainement changé. Nous avons été surpris que vous ayez considéré les mesures prises pour assurer la tranquillité des transactions commerciales dans les environs de Mazagan comme contraires à l'Acte d'Algésiras.

L'Empire Chérifien a démontré plus d'une fois sa volonté de se conformer aux Traités contractés avec les Puissances Européennes, de telle façon que toutes ses actions sont des preuves de sa bonne volonté. Il est donc à l'écart de tout reproche et pour arriver à assurer complètement la tranquillité des protégés étrangers et garantir les communications commerciales, le Makhzen—que Dieu rende puissant!—a dirigé ses vues élevées vers le port d'Azemour, qui est un centre de contrebande et un foyer d'anarchie, obstruant les portes de Mazagan même, et un repaire de brigand, qui constitue une menace pour Mazagan et porte préjudice au commerce de ses négociants, à cause des nzalas établis pour couper les relations établies entre elle et sa voisine Mazagan.

Attendu que le Makhzen—que Dieu rende puissant!—était inquiété de cet état de choses détestable, il a saisi l'occasion pour y mettre fin.

Il a donc envoyé pour atteindre ce but tout ce dont il a pu disposer et a été obligé alors d'utiliser temporairement le tabor de police de Mazagan, lequel, comme vous ne l'ignorez pas, est placé par l'Acte Général d'Algésiras sous l'autorité de Sa Majesté Chérifienne—que Dieu rende victorieux!

Cette action fit disparaître le point essentiel du mal qui pouvait devenir contagieux si on le négligeait.

Après avoir atteint ce but, qui était le maintien de la sécurité à Azemour, le tabor de police est retourné à Mazagan. A partir de ce moment la paix fut rétablie, et pour la consolider encore plus les Notables de la ville se sont réunis et se sont chargés d'y maintenir la tranquillité sous l'autorité de son Gouverneur. Par ce fait la liberté de leurs actes est garantie aux habitants de cette ville et ils se sont fort rejouis de l'action qui a produit ce résultat.

Nous sommes certains que vous réserverez un accueil favorable à ces observations, comme preuve de vos bonnes intentions d'aider le Makhzen—que Dieu rende puissant!—à accomplir ce qu'il s'efforce d'obtenir.

En outre de ce que nous venons de porter à votre connaissance, nous vous informons que nous avons eu l'honneur de transmettre votre lettre à Sa Majesté Chérifienne—que Dieu rende puissant!—afin que notre maître, toujours élevé, s'en rende compte par sa juste vue.

(Signé) MOHAMMED EL GUEBBAS.

Inclosure 4 in No. 18.

Colonel Müller to Sid Torres.

DU contenu de l'obligeante communication en date du 11 courant que votre Excellence a bien voulu me faire parvenir, il ressort que, d'après la manière de voir du Makhzen, les corps de police, placés sous l'autorité de Sa Majesté Chérifienne, peuvent

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non seulement être employés à garantir la sécurité des personnes et des biens des ressortissants étrangers, ainsi que les transactions commerciales, dans les huit ports prévus dans l'Acte d'Algésiras, mais peuvent être aussi dirigés temporairement sur d'autres points fermés au commerce, aux fins d'assurer plus complètement cette sécurité.

Je ne saurais cacher à votre Excellence que cette façon d'envisager le fonctionnement de la police me paraît contraire à l'esprit même du Chapitre 1er de l'Acte d'Algésiras. Les tabors extra-urbains de Tanger et de Casa Blanca peuvent certainement être employés à assurer l'ordre et la tranquillité en dehors ces deux villes, dans un rayon qu'il serait nécessaire et même urgent de fixer et qui, vu le faible effectif des troupes, ne devrait pas être très étendu ; mais un tabor urbain, comme celui de Mazagan, d'un effectif maximal de 175 askaris, n'a certainement pas été créé pour cela et ne possède encore aujourd'hui que tout juste le nombre d'hommes nécessaires pour maintenir la sécurité dans la ville. En général, les forces des tabors urbains ne sont pas suffisantes pour être divisées et ne permettre pas de garantir en même temps la tranquillité dans le port et dans ses environs.

Il n'y a donc ici qu'une simple divergence d'opinion sur l'interprétation à donner au Chapitre 1er de l'Acte d'Algésiras et, comme Inspecteur-Général de la Police, je tenais à vous faire savoir que je ne suis pas d'accord avec la manière de voir du Makhzen à ce sujet. Vous voudrez bien juger vous-même combien il est nécessaire que, dans l'intérêt général, l'emploi qui doit être fait des corps de police soit réglé une fois pour toutes ; c'est ce qui n'a pas encore eu lieu jusqu'à présent.

Je saisis, &c.
L'Inspecteur-Général de la
Police Chérifienne,
(Signé) MÜLLER.

[25967] No. 19.

Mr. White to Sir Edward Grey.—(*Received July* 27.)

(No. 181.)
Sir, *Tangier, July* 19, 1908.

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith a summary of events for the past week.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HERBERT E. WHITE.

Inclosure in No. 19.

Summary of Events for the week ending July 18, 1908.

THE most important event to be recorded during the past week is, of course, the departure of the Sultan from Rabat, which took place on the 11th instant. Dr. Verdon and a British cavalry instructor have accompanied the expedition, which is made up of the troops till now at Rabat and some tribesmen. The latest news in regard to the progress of the Sultan are that he left Tamara a few days ago, and will be at Sokhra-el-Jaja on the 20th instant.

The success of the expedition naturally depends to a large extent upon the attitude of Kaïd Anfluz. Unfortunately, according to information received from Mr. Vice-Consul Wilkinson, it would appear that this Kaïd is daily becoming more hostile towards the Makhzen. His latest act of hostility has been the destruction of the Kasbah of the Azizist Kaïd Hobban, Governor of Meskalla, who had been collecting a small force of cavalry with a view to co-operating with the Sultan's forces.

The Hafidist mehalla is reported to be advancing on Had Kort, south of Alcazar. Kaïd Remiki, Hafidist Governor of the latter town, has returned there unaccompanied by any force.

Mr. Vice-Consul Bewicke reports the arrival at Tetuan on the 16th instant of the German steam-ship "Riga." It is rumoured that the Hafidist Mission to Germany have returned on board this ship.

Considerable consternation appears to have been caused at Fez by the recapture of Azemour, which event seems to have been interpreted as evidence that France has

now decided to abandon her attitude of neutrality between the rival Sultans, and intends to restore Abdul Aziz by force of arms. Apart from tribal contingents, it is reported that Mulai Hafid has between 3,000 and 4,000 soldiers at Fez, principally deserters from the Sultan's army. This force is being energetically trained and drilled by Captain Belton and Mr. Beadle, two of the Englishmen who recently arrived at Fez.

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[26931] No. 20.

Mr. White to Sir Edward Grey.—(*Received August* 4.)

(No. 184.)
Sir, *Tangier, July* 24, 1908.

WHEN the Sultan was about to leave Rabat he arranged with the German officers at the Court, Major Tschudi and Captain Wolff, that they should accompany him on his march to Marakesh, they themselves having expressed their desire to do so. The Sultan provided each of these officers with tents and with two horses for the march and everything else they required, and His Majesty was considerably annoyed when they subsequently informed him that they had received instructions from their Government not to accompany the expedition.

Whilst the Sultan was encamped at Temara, Major Tschudi and Captain Wolff rode out to the camp. The Sultan did not see them, but sent them instructions to return the horses, tents, &c., which he had provided for them, and to go to Tangier, adding that they could come to Marakesh when he sent for them. His Majesty, however, told my informant that he would never send for them.

Captain Wolff has already left for Germany, but Major Tschudi is at present at Casablanca.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HERBERT E. WHITE.

[26932] No. 21.

Mr. White to Sir Edward Grey.—(*Received August* 4.)

(No. 185.)
Sir, *Tangier, July* 24, 1908.

I HAVE the honour to report that the Diplomatic Body have been officially informed that the Sultan has appointed Cid-el-Hadj Mohammed Ben Abdessalem-el-Mokri as Minister of Finance, a post hitherto held by Sheikh Tazi.

Cid-el-Mokri was the leading Moorish Delegate at the Algeciras Conference, though nominally under Cid Torres; he has also been employed on special missions to Paris to negotiate loans. He is intelligent, and comparatively liberal in his ideas, and his appointment is doubtless due to French influence with the Sultan.

I understand that the Tazi family are rarely with the Sultan now. Hadj Omar Tazi has been sent back to Mogador, and the removal of his brother, Sheikh Tazi, from his post would seem to indicate that they have fallen into disfavour. This would produce a good impression, as the Tazi family are universally unpopular, and the misfortunes of the country are in large measure attributed to them.

Cid Abdelkrim Ben Sliman's appointment as Grand Vizier has, I understand, been productive of good results. He is probably the most capable man at the Court, and understands how to deal with the deputations that come in from the tribes.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HERBERT E. WHITE.

[26934] No. 22.

Mr. White to Sir Edward Grey.—(*Received August* 4.)

(No. 187.)
Sir, *Tangier, July* 25, 1908.

WITH reference to my despatch No. 180 of the 18th instant, I have the honour to transmit herewith copies of further letters exchanged between the Moorish Commissioners for Foreign Affairs and Colonel Müller, in regard to the employment of a

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detachment of police at Azemour. This correspondence was communicated by Colonel Müller to the doyen, who circulated it among the Corps Diplomatique.

Baron Wangenheim, the Acting German Minister, noted on the Circular that before referring the matter to his Government, he desired to learn the views of the French and Spanish Ministers on the subject, the police being instructed by French and Spanish officers.

I beg leave to transmit herewith copy of the views of the French Minister as expressed in the Circular in compliance with the request of Baron Wangenheim. M. Regnault considers that it is desirable that the zone of action of the police should not be limited, and that it should be left to the Makhzen to decide its range according to circumstances and place. He suggests, therefore, that the Diplomatic Body should confine itself to declaring that the police is placed by the Act of Algeciras under the sovereign authority of the Sultan, and that there are no grounds for their interference in regard to the question raised by Colonel Müller.

This Circular has not yet reached me, but the Spanish Minister called upon me two days since to inquire my views on the subject. He said that he did not agree with the opinion expressed by M. Regnault. He considered that the police should not be used outside the ports open to commerce and their immediate neighbourhood, and that that was in fact the intention of the Delegates at the Algeciras Conference, M. Révoil having stated at one of the meetings that their zone of action should be limited to 10 kilom. outside the towns. M. Merry del Val wished to know my views before consulting his Government, as he knew that his Government always desired to act in accordance with us.

I told M. Merry del Val that I had no instructions from you on this special point, but that I shared the views expressed by M. Regnault that it would be very undesirable to draw a hard-and-fast line applicable to all ports and to decide that the police should not be employed outside that line. I cited the case of Tangier as an instance, and pointed out that if the police could not be employed beyond the 10-kilom. limit, Cape Spartel Lighthouse and Lloyd's signal station could be attacked and the police could not be employed to defend them. I considered that the police could be employed even at some distance from the ports if that were necessary for their security, and I informed him that, unless in the meantime I should have reason to change my opinion, I proposed, when the Circular came to me, to concur in the opinion expressed by M. Regnault.

I have not been able to see M. Merry del Val since, and have not ascertained what line he has adopted. I have referred to the *procès-verbaux* of the Algeciras Conference, but have failed to find the passage referred to by M. Merry del Val. In Annex No. 3 to the *procès-verbal* of the tenth meeting in Committee, M. Révoil stated: "L'expérience que la Conférence vient de prendre de la situation du Maroc démontre qu'il faut limiter l'organisation de cette police aux besoins les plus immédiats au premier rang desquels figure la sécurité dans les ports ouverts au commerce et dans la banlieue," but there is nothing to show that in order to insure that security they cannot take action outside the immediate neighbourhood of a port that may be threatened.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HERBERT E. WHITE.

Inclosure 1 in No. 22.

Shereefian Delegates to Colonel Müller.

(Compliments.) *Tanger, le* 18 *Juillet*, 1908.

NOUS avons reçu votre lettre datée du 13 Juillet répondant à ce que nous vous avions écrit au sujet de vos observations concernant l'emploi de la police à Mazagan, et nous l'avons transmise à Sa Majesté Chérifienne pour qu'elle exprime son opinion à ce sujet.

Mais ce que vous nous communiquez est que l'effectif des corps de police n'est pas suffisant pour assurer la sécurité. La police n'a pas été créée pour les ports exclusivement, ainsi que vous l'avez dit, mais pour assurer la sécurité dans les ports et leurs environs, excepté à Tanger et à Casa Blanca; il nous paraît d'abord que c'est une vue non adoptée par les Puissances Signataires de l'Acte d'Algésiras, qui ont fixé au Makhzen un nombre suffisant de soldats pour assurer la tranquillité dans les lieux où elle réside et dans les environs, et pour protéger les intérêts des étrangers et les

échanges commerciaux. Il nous a paru que vos observations ne sont pas basées sur des faits réels, puisque, jusqu'à ce jour, la police n'a pas complété son organisation.

L'expérience a démontré, à l'essai qui a été fait à Mazagan, que la police a pu servir provisoirement dans la ville voisine d'Azemour, car elle y a rétabli la sécurité et la tranquillité, et comme elle a obtenu un résultat évident à Mazagan, nous sommes persuadés que les corps de police, malgré l'effectif réduit des hommes, jouit d'un pouvoir dans ce pays du Maroc pour produire des effets plus ou moins grands suivant les lieux et les événements qui s'y sont accomplis.

Nous ne sommes pas obligés de vous suivre sur la différence que vous avez trouvée entre les tabors urbains et extra-urbains, puisque l'Acte d'Algésiras n'a pas déterminé des attributions diverses aux tabors urbains et extra-urbains, car les corps de police ont été chargés d'une action importante illimitée, et le nombre des hommes de la police ne varie pas suivant les attributions, mais suivant la différence d'importance des ports entre eux, conformément aux termes de l'Article 5 de l'Acte d'Algésiras.

Il faut remarquer ici que le Makhzen est responsable vis-à-vis des étrangers dans tous les ports d'une responsabilité égale sans diversités particulières, d'autant plus que la police est sous l'autorité de Sa Majesté le Sultan.

Nous ne pouvons garder le silence sur l'idée que vous aviez émise dans votre lettre précitée, que le Makhzen a utilisé provisoirement la police dans un lieu non ouvert au commerce, ce qui est inexact, car Azemour est une localité où quelques protégés étrangers possèdent des intérêts, y habitent, et qu'il y existe des bureaux de poste, et quoique non ouvert au commerce par mer, elle est ouverte aux échanges commerciaux. Il nous aurait suffi de porter verbalement ces observations à votre connaissance, si vous nous aviez même causé verbalement à ce sujet, car les relations amicales qui existent entre nous nous permettent des échanges de vues sur cela, avant d'adresser des lettres officielles. A cette occasion nous vous demandons qu'à l'avenir vous nous écriviez dans la langue Arabe et que vos lettres soient adressées dans de telles circonstances aux deux Délégués de Sa Majesté Chérifienne à Tanger qui ont signé la présente, conformément aux usages du Makhzen.

En conséquence de l'Article 8 de l'Acte d'Algésiras, nous vous rappelons que votre Rapport doit être adressé au Makhzen en même temps que vous l'adressez aux Représentants des Puissances respectées.

(Signé) MOHAMMED TORRES.
MOHAMMED GUEBBAS.

Inclosure 2 in No. 22.

Colonel Müller to Shereefian Delegates.

MM. les Délégués Chérifiennes. [*Non datée.*]

PAR votre lettre du 18 courant, vous avez bien voulu répondre à ma communication du 13 Juillet, qui n'avait d'autre but que de préciser ma façon d'envisager l'emploi de la police des ports. Vous me permettez la remarque, comme Inspecteur-Général, j'ai seulement à m'assurer du bon fonctionnement de la police et à donner mon avis à ce sujet, afin que les Puissances Signataires de l'Acte d'Algésiras soient mises à même de constater que la police Chérifienne est employée conformément aux décisions prises par la Conférence. C'est pourquoi, je ne me crois pas autorisé à discuter ici, pour ce qui concerne le fonctionnement des tabors, les idées exprimées dans votre note du 18 courant, que je transmettrai simplement, avec une copie de cette lettre, au Corps Diplomatique qui, s'il le juge bon, pourra donner son avis sur le bien-fondé des dispositions prises par les autorités de Mazagan vis-à-vis du tabor No. 9 et déclarer s'il est d'accord avec la manière de voir du Makhzen.

Vous voulez bien me reprocher amicalement de n'avoir pas présenté mes observations de vive voix et de leur avoir donné le caractère d'une communication officielle! Je dois dire que, sur une question aussi grave que celle qui a été l'objet de cette correspondance, l'envoi d'un Rapport spécial m'a paru tout indiqué. C'est un droit que je me réserve à exercer toutes les fois que je le jugerai nécessaire.

Pour me conformer à vos désirs, je ne manquerai pas de vous faire parvenir dorénavant, avec les communications en langue Française signées par moi, la traduction de celles-ci en langue Arabe.

Mon Rapport sur l'inspection des ports vous a été adressé en original, le 12 Juillet

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dernier, en même temps qu'une copie était remise au Doyen du Corps Diplomatique, conformément à l'Article 8 de l'Acte d'Algésiras.

Veuillez, &c.
L'Inspecteur-Général de la
Police Chérifienne,
(Signé) MÜLLER.

Inclosure 3 in No. 22.

Views of French Minister.

J'AI relu attentivement l'Acte d'Algésiras et le Règlement de Police. Je n'y ai vu ucune disposition établissant une distinction entre les divers ports au sujet des auvoirs de la police et de sa zone d'action.

On trouve, il est vrai, dans le Tableau No. 1 du Règlement, après les tabors Nos. 1 et 2 à Tanger, les mots "groupe urbain et extra-urbain," mêmes indications à Casa Blanca pour les tabors Nos. 3 et 4. Mais ces dénominations n'ont d'autre but que de différencier entre eux les tabors dans les deux ports mixtes, où coexistent des instructeurs Français et Espagnols. Ces expressions ne sont reproduites pour aucun des tabors créés dans les autres villes; on ne saurait, donc, en tirer argument pour soutenir que ces derniers sont exclusivement urbains. Partout, sauf à Tanger et à Casa Blanca, ils sont à la fois urbains et extra-urbains.

Suivant moi, quand les Puissances Signataires de l'Acte d'Algésiras et le Makhzen ont organisé la police, ils n'ont pas voulu installer des agents de police dans les villes et leur banlieue. Ils ont entendu former une troupe essentiellement militaire, solide, et bien encadrée, destinée à assurer dans un rayon d'une certaine étendue la sécurité des étrangers et des transactions commerciales. Les effectifs assez nombreux prévus pour chaque port la composition même des corps de police, qui comprennent les trois armes, artillerie, cavalerie, et infanterie, le démontrent pleinement.

Quelle doit être la zone d'action des troupes de police, et doit-elle être uniforme? A mon avis, il serait désirable, et ce serait répondre à l'esprit de l'Acte d'Algésiras, de ne pas la restreindre d'avance; la sécurité des étrangers et des transactions commerciales y gagnerait de profiter éventuellement des succès de la pacification et de l'ordre obtenu par l'action progressive de la police. Il convient donc de laisser au Makhzen, qui a la responsabilité de l'ordre, le soin de déterminer ce rayon d'action et de le fixer suivant les circonstances et les lieux.

Dans la question présente, le Makhzen, qui a pouvoir d'ordonner les opérations confiées par lui aux corps de police (Article 14 du Règlement), a donc pu se considérer comme étant en droit d'envoyer à Azemour, ville voisine de Mazagan, un contingent de la police installée dans ce dernier port.

L'événement prouve que l'opération toute provisoire n'a porté aucun préjudice à Mazagan, et qu'on n'aurait, semble-t-il, aucune raison d'en faire grief au Makhzen.

C'est pourquoi je pense que le Corps Diplomatique devrait se borner à déclarer que la police serait placée par l'Acte d'Algésiras (Article 2) sous l'autorité souveraine du Sultan, il n'y a pas lieu d'intervenir au sujet de la question posée par M. l'Inspecteur-Général.

[26935] No. 23.

Mr. White to Sir Edward Grey.—(*Received August* 4.)

(No. 188.)
Sir,
Tangier, July 25, 1908.

I HAVE the honour to report that Mr. Beadle, one of the three Englishmen whose arrival at Fez was reported in my despatch No. 174 of the 14th instant, has returned to Tangier.

He called at the Legation this morning and stated that he is proceeding at once to England. He gave me, however, no information as to his business at Fez, merely speaking of the photographs he had taken for "Topical News."

Captain Belton and Mr. Redman have remained at Fez, and Mr. Beadle confirmed the report mentioned in my despatch No. 174 of the 14th instant, that Captain Belton had been appointed by Mulai Hafid as instructor of his troops, Mr. Redman acting as

his interpreter. He stated, however, that there was no question of his own appointment as instructor; my informant was therefore misinformed on this particular.

Mr. Beadle estimates the forces with Mulai Hafid at about 2,500 men, principally composed of half-trained troops who have deserted from the Sultan. He said there are no tribal levies at Fez at present. Mulai Hafid appears very anxious to gain the good opinion of Europe, and is showing every consideration towards such Europeans as are at Fez, and causing the Jewish population to be well treated. On the other hand, his exactions are giving rise to considerable discontent amongst the Moors. His announced departure from Fez appears to be indefinitely postponed, the reason given out being that there is no necessity for his proceeding to Marrakesh as that city is in no danger of being retaken by the Sultan, who is reported to be in great difficulties, reports—which however are devoid of foundation—being circulated that His Majesty has been defeated by the tribes.

Mr. Beadle informs me that several Germans and others have arrived at Fez, and that Europeans can go about that town without being molested.

It is believed by many persons here that Mulai Hafid's real reason for not marching to Marrakesh is his fear that Fez may revert to the Sultan if he leaves, and that he may not be able to re-enter it, in which case, should he be unsuccessful in reaching Marrakesh, his position would become desperate.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HERBERT E. WHITE.

[27666] No. 24.

Mr. White to Sir Edward Grey.—(*Received August* 10.)

(No. 192.)
Sir,
Tangier, July 30, 1908.

WITH reference to my despatch No. 23 of the 24th January, I have the honour to report that the doyen of the Diplomatic Body having received a letter from the Moorish Commissioner for Foreign Affairs inquiring who had been nominated Diplomatic Delegates on the "Comité Spécial des Travaux Publics" under Article 1 of the Adjudications Regulations, the foreign Representatives were requested to name their Delegates.

Mr. Russell having been transferred to another post, I have named Mr. Rattigan as British Delegate and Mr. Vice-Consul Bristow as Portuguese Delegate *ad interim*, reserving the right to the Portuguese Minister to make an appointment on his return.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HERBERT E. WHITE.

[27669] No. 25.

Mr. White to Sir Edward Grey.—(*Received August* 10.)

(No. 195.)
Sir,
Tangier, July 31, 1908.

SINCE the first Proclamation of Mulai Hafid and the appointment shortly after of Kaïd Aissa Ben Omar as his Vizier for Foreign Affairs, the Sultan has believed that this Kaïd was at heart with him, and had only joined his rebel brother through force of circumstances. Kaïd Aissa himself has encouraged this belief by maintaining a secret correspondence with the Sultan, and there can, I think, be little doubt that up to the time of Mulai Hafid's Proclamation at Fez Kaïd Aissa was prepared to join the Sultan had His Majesty made a forward movement that seemed likely to be successful. Even now he would doubtless throw over Mulai Hafid and return to his allegiance to the Sultan should he consider that Mulai Hafid's cause was lost.

Kaïd Aissa is a very powerful Governor, and possesses great influence not only over his own large tribe, the Abda, but also in the surrounding districts. The Sultan has therefore hitherto refrained from taking any action against him, but recent events have led his Majesty to lose hope of winning him over, and His Majesty determined to try the effect of pressure. There had formerly been a rival to Kaïd Aissa in the person of a former Governor of Abda, named Hadj-el-Arbi Ben Tomar. This man had been kept in prison for some time at Kaïd Aissa's request. The Sultan now had

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Kaïd Ben Tomar released and sent him to Saffi, having appointed him Governor over the whole or a part of the Abda, it is not certain which. The Sultan's letter of appointment was read to a certain number of Abda tribesmen who happened to be in Saffi, and were made to assemble in a courtyard for the purpose.

This caused considerable irritation to the tribe, the majority of whom are under the influence of Kaïd Aissa, of whom they stand in great awe on account of his severity. It was decided to boycott the town of Saffi, and tribesmen were stationed on all the roads to prevent communication with it. Kaïd Aissa's son, who governs the tribes in the absence of his father at Fez, addressed a letter to the Consuls at Saffi protesting against the appointment of Kaïd Ben Tomar; he points out that by his father's instructions he had kept order in the district and free communication with Saffi, even after the Proclamation of the Sultan, and states that the tribesmen are much excited over the appointment of Kaïd Ben Tomar, and he disclaims responsibility for the fighting and disturbances that would ensue.

The Consular Officers held a meeting, on the invitation of the Spanish Consul, at which it was decided unanimously to send a joint protest against the closing of the roads both to the local authorities and to Kaïd Aissa's son. It was also decided, the French Vice-Consul alone dissenting, to send a communication, copy of which I beg to transmit herewith, to the doyen of the Diplomatic Body at Tangier expressing the opinion that the surest and quickest way to restore tranquillity would be to remove Kaïd Ben Tomar from Saffi. The French Admiral, who happened to be at Saffi, was requested to forward this message to Tangier by wireless telegraph, but declined to do so, on the ground that it was not unanimous, and amounted to an interference in the internal affairs of the country.

A few days later, however, the communications with the town were again opened by Kaïd Aissa's son. It is not clear for what reason this step was taken, but it is believed at Saffi that it was in consequence of the representations that were known to have been made by the Consuls to Tangier and by the local authorities to the Sultan.

It is thought at Saffi that the appointment of Kaïd Ben Tomar was premature, and the manner of announcing it injudicious, as the country was quiet and the Abda tribe would probably have been prepared to recognize the Sultan when His Majesty had reached the south and was in a position to protect them in case of need.

I have, &c
(Signed) HERBERT E. WHITE.

Inclosure in No. 25.

Note addressed to the Doyen of Diplomatic Body at Tangier by Consular Officers at Saffi.

LES membres du Corps Consulaire soussignés, après avoir attentivement étudié la situation insoutenable de Saffi, qui empire de moment en moment, pensent que le moyen le plus rapide et le plus efficace d'y remédier est d'éloigner de Saffi le Caïd Hadj Larby Ben Tomar, dont la nomination de Gouverneur des Abda a donné lieu à la perturbation de la tranquillité qui regnait autrefois en ville.

(Signed by Consular Officers of Denmark, Spain, Austria, Germany, Portugal, Great Britain, and Italy.)

Saffi, le 27 Juillet, 1908.

[27670] No. 26.

Mr. White to Sir Edward Grey.—(*Received August* 10.)

(No. 196.)
Sir, *Tangier, August* 2, 1908.

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith a summary of events in Morocco during the past week.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HERBERT E. WHITE.

Inclosure in No. 26.

Summary of Events in Morocco during the past Week.

ALL interest is at present centred on the progress of the Sultan's expedition to Marakesh. Many conflicting rumours continue to be prevalent, and it is difficult to obtain precise information, but, according to the French Legation, the Sultan should by now have crossed the Um Er Rebia River. Dr. Verdon, who has accompanied the expedition, reports that the various tribes, through whose districts the Sultan has passed, have, without exception, given proofs of their renewed loyalty to His Majesty. Tribal contingents are, it appears, continually coming to meet the Sultan, with offerings of "Mona," horses for the Sultan, &c., being anxious to explain their support of the Pretender, which, they maintain, was extorted by fear of reprisals on the part of the latter had they not declared themselves favourable, or, at any rate, neutral towards him.

Meanwhile little is known of Mulai Hafid's movements. Persistent rumours are being circulated as to the advance of powerful Hafidist Mehallas upon Rabat and the south, while it appears certain that a small force is showing activity in the district of Alcazar.

From Casa Blanca Mr. Vice-Consul Lomas reports that it is stated on all sides that General d'Amade is shortly to give up the command of the French troops. Some considerable annoyance has been caused in French military circles by the frequent desertions which have lately taken place in the Foreign Legion. These deserters, who are all Germans, make their way to Rabat, from whence they are shipped by the German Vice-Consulate back to Hamburg. Possibly as a consequence of this, it is stated that one battaljon of the Legion is to be sent to Tonquin, and will be replaced here by French or Algerian troops.

Some excitement has been caused here by an incident between the German Legation and the Moorish Commissioners. It appears that the rebel Governor of Alcazar, Kaïd Remiki, with whom the Germans maintain a correspondence, lately sent to the German Minister a messenger, who, after delivering his message, appears to have made himself somewhat conspicuous in the town by a violent outburst against the Sultan and Makhzen. As a result he was arrested by order of Cid Torres and put in prison. Upon hearing of this, the German Legation at once sent up to Cid Torres a peremptory order to release the man forthwith, as he was a German protégé. Cid Torres pointed out that his name did not appear on the list of protégés, but the German Legation retorted that he had been employed by the first interpreter to look after his cattle, and persisted in their demand for his instant release. The Moorish Commissioners, perceiving the uselessness of further resistance to the German demands, gave in and released the prisoner. This, however, did not satisfy the German Legation, who demanded that the soldiers concerned in the arrest of the man should in their turn be imprisoned, as they had insulted the German flag. It appears that when Kaïd Remiki's messenger protested that he was a German protégé, the soldiers who arrested him declared that that did not concern them, as they took their orders from their own authorities, and not from the German Legation. In the end this further demand was also complied with, and the soldiers concerned have been put in prison.

Latest News communicated by French Legation, August 3, 1908.

A fight has taken place near Alcazar between the Government troops and the rebels under Kaïd Remiki. The fight appears to have been indecisive, but the object of the Government troops was achieved, viz., the recovery of cattle and transport animals belonging to the Makhzen, which had been raided by Kaïd Remiki's men.

A strong Hafidist Mehalla under El Mrani is reported to be within two days' march of Alcazar, and the advance guard has already arrived in that town.

Upon the arrival of the Sultan at the Umer Rebia River on the 30th ultimo, three important Rehamna Kaïds came and made their submission to His Majesty, while promises of strong contingents were received from the Seraghna. The Sultan appears to be very confident of success

The Government Mehalla, which set out from Mogador for Marakesh, has been attacked by Kaïd Anflus, but succeeded in repelling the attack, and is continuing its march.

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ALL WITHOUT PERMISSION OF THE

Rumours have reached the Legation that the Sultan has been proclaimed at Marakesh, but this is not confirmed.

(Initialled) F. R.

[27671] No. 27.

Mr. White to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received August 10.)

(No. 197.)

Tangier, August 2, 1908.

Sir,

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith translation of a letter which has been addressed by Kaïd Aissa Ben Omar, Foreign Minister of Mulai Hafid, to the foreign Representatives here.

In this letter Kaïd Aissa points out the evils which result from the present state of affairs being allowed to continue, and reasserts Mulai Hafid's intention to recognize the Act of Algeciras and uphold its provisions.

I have, &c.

(Signed) HERBERT E. WHITE.

Inclosure in No. 27.

Kaïd Ben Omar to the Foreign Representatives at Tangier.

(Translation.)

(After compliments.)

YOU are not unaware of the tendency of affairs in Morocco in the matter of the growth of agitation and the increase of calamities, and the overtaking of her people by great distress, by reason of what has been brought about by the bad administration of Abdul Aziz and those around him—may God forgive him and them! And we are quite certain that you are aware of the real state of affairs and their cause, and we feel positive that you do not lend your assent to the continuation of these disturbed conditions, and the commotion of the people amongst themselves; since the remedy is simple, and presents no difficulties if justice be done and truth recognized. For all the people of Morocco, in the towns and in the country, are agreed upon swearing fealty to His Majesty (Mulai Hafid) (compliments), and submit to him with welcoming breasts and joyful hearts; and they are only turned from the path of complete loyalty by that which they hear of the meddlings of the said persons, in this manner and in that manner, and because they desist not from uttering vain words, from which they derive no advantage whatsoever. Otherwise, if they were to restrain themselves and remain in their places, then would loyalty be complete and tranquillity would reign on every side.

And our lord (compliments) has commanded me to write this to you, explaining the present circumstances and acquainting you with the fact that our lord (compliments) accepts the terms of the Act of Algeciras, which was accepted by agreement of all the Representatives of the friendly Governments, with all its paragraphs and all its chapters, without dispute, according to what it is and as it is. And our lord disputes no part of it as long as the agreement of the Governments renders it binding, and that your friendly exalted Government may know this officially, and that it may have no doubt of his acceptance or his opposition to it. For our lord (compliments) is certain that you do not in any wise consent to that which involves harm to his subjects. And he hopes, through your good intermediation, that an end may be put to this interference amongst them, and that the hand which meddles in their welfare may be restrained, that the land may be free from participation to its ruler, in such manner as appears good for its prosperity. This through your kindly conducting of affairs and from your love of method and order.

May you continue, &c.

(Signed) AISSA BEN OMAR.

25 *Jumada II*, 1326 (*July* 25, 1908).

[26934] No. 28.

Sir Edward Grey to Mr. White.

(No. 136.)

Foreign Office, August 12, 1908.

Sir,

I HAVE received your despatch No. 187 of the 25th ultimo, and I approve your following the line adopted by your French colleague with regard to the question of the employment of the port police outside their stations.

It is clear that if no limits were to be put upon the employment of the police complications might ensue, but it does not appear to me that, in the recent incident of their employment at Azemour or in M. Regnault's view of it, there is anything inconsistent with the spirit of the Algeciras Act.

It would certainly seem that the use made of the police on this occasion was for the public advantage.

I am, &c.

(Signed) E. GREY.

[28504] No. 29.

Mr. White to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received August 17.)

(No. 200.)

Tangier, August 8, 1908.

Sir,

WITH reference to my despatch No. 177 of the 16th ultimo, I have the honour to transmit herewith translation of a letter addressed to me by Sid Torres and Sid Guebbas renewing the complaints against Raisuli.

Sid Guebbas called upon me to speak on the subject. He admitted that he could produce no proof, but declared that it was a matter of public notoriety that Raisuli corresponds with the tribes, and that numbers of persons come in to see him. He begged, therefore, that I would do all in my power to induce Raisuli to leave his farm at Abreesh, about 8 miles north of Arzila, and return to Tazerout or come to reside at Tangier.

I told Sid Guebbas that I would do my utmost to meet their wishes, but explained that, by the terms of our Agreement, Raisuli has full liberty to reside where he pleases, with the exception of Alcazar, Arzila, and Tetuan, and that, therefore, in view of his own absolute denial of this charge, it was difficult for me, without something more definite to go upon than unsubstantiated reports, to compel him to leave his farm and come into Tangier. He himself is most unwilling to take this step, as not only has he his agricultural interests to attend to, but he feels that his prestige would suffer, as he would be considered to have been driven away by the persecutions of his enemy, Kaïd Bou Auda, Governor of Arzila and the neighbouring tribes, and commander of the Shereefian forces in the district, who has for some time past been oppressing Raisuli's employés and adherents. I pointed out to Sid Guebbas that Kaïd Bou Auda's attitude towards Raisuli made the matter more difficult, especially as the Makhzen professed its inability to enforce Kaïd Bou Auda's obedience to the letters addressed to him in regard to Raisuli's complaints.

Raisuli came to see me shortly after in regard to an outrage which had been committed upon two farmers who had considerable property of his in their possession. These men are also agricultural employés of the scribe of this Legation, holding a certificate issued by the Legation under Article 9 of the Madrid Convention. Notwithstanding that Sid Guebbas had, at the request of this Legation, warned Kaïd Bou Auda that these men should not be interfered with, the Kaïd sent a body of cavalry and infantry to their place in their absence, burned down their houses and standing corn, and carried off all their women and children, as well as the contents of their houses and all their livestock. The Arabic scribe also complained in regard to the losses he had suffered.

I forwarded the complaints to Sid Guebbas, demanding that the unfortunate women and children be at once restored, and holding the Makhzen responsible for the losses suffered by the scribe and Raisuli. His Excellency replied that he had sent out to make inquiries, and can in the meantime do nothing. The fact is that the Makhzen look upon Kaïd Bou Auda as their only hope in the north; they have confided to him such forces as they have, though they do not at heart feel convinced of his loyalty, and

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they dare not displease him or give him any excuse for going over to the other side with his force as Kaïd Remiki at Alcazar did.

Raisuli is naturally very indignant, as he feels that this outrage is merely an incident in the persecution of all his adherents and really an attack upon himself. I have promised him to insist upon justice being done in this case, and he has consented to remain in Tangier for the present. I trust that I may be able to prevail upon him to prolong his residence here, or to retire to Tazerout, as desired by Sid Guebbas, and also by the French Minister, to whom I have spoken on the subject. M. Regnault told me that he has received reports from several independent sources confirming Raisuli's intrigues with the tribes. He has not been able to obtain any proof of this, but he himself believed it, and he urged me to prevent Raisuli from residing at Abreesh.

Personally I am not convinced that these reports are true, Raisuli's denial having the appearance of sincerity, and false reports in this country often obtaining general credence by frequent repetition. On the other hand, it is quite possible that there is foundation for them, and in any case it is desirable, under all the circumstances, that Raisuli should come to Tangier. As I have said, he has consented to remain here for a short time, and I hope to be able to persuade him to stop on, especially if I can obtain satisfaction for the outrage committed upon his men; but should he eventually insist upon returning to Abreesh, it seems to me difficult, under the terms of our Agreement, to prevent him from doing so unless there is some sort of definite proof in support of the charge brought against him.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HERBERT E. WHITE.

Inclosure in No. 29.

Sid Torres and Sid Guebbas to Mr. White.

(After compliments.) 5 *Rajab*, 1326 (*August* 2, 1908).

YOU are well aware of what has passed between us and you many times in the matter of Raisuli, and what has reached us concerning his meddlings and signs of sedition in these districts; and his doings have disturbed all minds, until there came to the house of the Commission for Foreign Affairs the Representative of the United States and the Spanish Representative. And each of them said that their Agent at Arzila had written to them that Raisuli had published in the town that he had received the governorship of the town, and is menacing it, as also he proclaimed that he had been appointed Governor over all the Kabiles of these districts by Mulai Hafid, and the people of the town were greatly disturbed, and fear fell upon all of them.

And when the two above-mentioned Representatives informed us of that, inquiring what had happened, and if there was any cause for fear for their Representatives and subjects and protégés in Arzila or no, we denied the rumours and answered them in a manner calculated to tranquillize their minds on the subject of their Representatives and protégés.

And it is incumbent upon us to inform you of that and of what we know concerning the matter, how he has installed himself in the place where he is at present in seventeen tents, and the rabble of the tribes are proceeding towards him at his invitation and in consequence of his meddlings amongst them.

That you may know that that in which Raisuli is engaged is calculated to disturb the public peace, and is of a nature which causes commotions, and troubles the minds, and promotes sedition; and this the Makhzen has been using every effort to put down, striving for the tranquillity and quietness of all natives, subjects, and protégés.

And because of this we request you to use all your praiseworthy efforts toward the general well-being and for perfect tranquillity, that you may place a barrier between Raisuli and that in which he is at present engaged, either by compelling him to dwell in Tangier, or by obliging him to proceed to his place at Tazerout, and to desist from mixing in seditious meddlings.

And if he has any corn at Gheriba or at any other place the Government will provide the needful for one of his relatives to look after it, but with no more than one tent, and without ostentation, and the tribes shall not go to that place.

And it is well known that you look after cases of this kind, and arrange them as is to be wished, and therefore we firmly hope that you will act up to your reputation in this matter, in which the greatest importance attaches to these illicit happenings, for we are

sure that he will comply with your orders, so that the Makhzen may not be compelled to repeat what has past relating to him.

And what is known of your kind solicitude and energy is a sufficient guarantee to the Makhzen in the matter.

May you remain, &c.

(Signed) MOHAMMED-EL-ARBI TORRES.
MOHAMMED-EL-GUEBBAS.

[28505] No. 30.

Mr. White to Sir Edward Grey.—(*Received August* 17.)

(No. 201.)

Sir, *Tangier, August* 9, 1908.

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith a summary of events in Morocco for the past week.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HERBERT E. WHITE.

Inclosure in No. 30.

Events of the Week.

THE Sultan is reported to have reached Meshraa Knidlat, on the Umer Rebia River, on the 31st ultimo, and Mr. Vice-Consul Lomas was informed by the French authorities on the 6th instant that His Majesty had not yet crossed the river. A part of his force, however, have crossed by a ford higher up-stream, and effected a junction with the Seraghna tribe, who are reported to be favourable to the expedition, while a contingent of 800 men from the Showia tribe have crossed by a lower ford into Rehamna. It is not known what is the object of these reconnaissances. According to French reports, the opposing Hafidist forces are divided into three unequal bodies, stationed to the south of the Marakesh road, with the apparent intention of opposing the Sultan's advance to the southern capital.

Some disappointment appears to have been caused by the relatively insignificant number of Showia tribesmen who have joined the expedition, as it had been confidently expected that at least 2,000 men would volunteer to accompany the Sultan to Marakesh.

Meanwhile it is reported from Fez that Mulai Hafid hesitates to leave the capital, fearing a revolt on the part of the populace should he absent himself. The command of the army of 2,500 men destined to advance upon Rabat will therefore be intrusted to Hadj Ben Aissa, a former Governor of Mequinez, with the fanatical Abdelkrim Eshirgui as second in command. El Bagdadi and his brother have been released, presumably with the object of conciliating the important tribe of Ulad Jama, and, in order to assure their loyalty, Mulai Hafid has appointed the former Azizist General to replace Eshirgui as Governor of old Fez, while his brother is to be Kaïd of the Ulad Jama.

Considerable excitement has been caused at Laraiche by the refusal of the Hafidist Kaïd Remiki to allow wood and charcoal to be brought into the town. Fearing disturbances as a result of these measures, the Consular Corps met and decided to address their respective Legations, in order that steps might be taken to supply the town with fuel. It is apprehended that the populace, being unable to cook their food, may be incited to riot, when a serious situation would ensue.

(Initialled) F. R.

[28506] No. 31.

Mr. White to Sir Edward Grey.—(*Received August* 17.)

(No. 202.)

Sir, *Tangier, August* 9, 1908.

MR. FORDE, Vice-Consul at Laraiche, informs me privately that a Dr. Lancelot Wilkinson has arrived from London and left for Alcazar. Before leaving, Dr. Wilkinson

told him confidentially that he had been instructed by "Mr. Bass, of London," to negotiate a loan with Mulai Hafid, and that he was proceeding to Fez for that purpose.

A short time since Dr. Wilkinson wrote to me from 156, St. James' Court, Buckingham Gate, London, with reference to passing through the custom-house at Laraiche sporting guns and ammunition and medical stores, which he stated he required for an expedition he was making. In reply, I informed him that this was not a suitable time for making expeditions, and I called his attention to the warning which had been issued.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HERBERT E. WHITE.

[28733] No. 32.

Memorandum communicated by the French Embassy, August 18, 1908.

LE Maghzen ayant décidé, dans son Firman de convocation de la Commission des Indemnités de Casa Blanca, de prendre à sa charge les dépenses de la Commission, le Ministre de France à Tanger a prié, au mois de Juin dernier, le Ministre Chérifien des Finances d'affecter à cet usage une somme de 10,000 p. h., soit environ 6,500 fr. Une première somme avait déjà été mise à la disposition de la Commission. La somme de 10,000 p. h. a dû être versée à l'Agence de la Banque de l'État à Casa Blanca au nom du Secrétaire de la Commission; celui-ci acquittera toutes les dépenses autres que les traitements des Délégués Européens et Chérifiens (payés directement par le Maghzen), et de leurs Secrétaires particuliers. Il paiera le Secrétariat Européen et indigène de la Commission, les experts comptables, &c. Il fournira ensuite justification des dépenses acquittées par lui.

Quant au traitement des Délégués Européens et de leurs Secrétaires particuliers, il semble qu'il devrait être payé par les Gouvernements respectifs. Ces traitements sont en effet variables, et il ne saurait appartenir au Maghzen de consacrer des inégalités qui soulèveraient des protestations. Il paraitrait avantageux de les faire régler en ajoutant un tant pour cent aux sommes attribuées par la Commission aux indemnités. Cette majoration pourrait être de 5 pour cent, et si, comme il est probable, il y a un excédent, il serait reversé au Trésor Marocain.

Le Gouvernement de Sa Majesté Britannique a déjà donné son assentiment à une combinaison de ce genre. Il proposait toutefois de déduire le 5 pour cent du montant des indemnités; le Gouvernement Français jugerait plus équitable de majorer d'autant les indemnités. L'indemnitaire ne subirait ainsi aucun préjudice, puisque la somme fixée par la Commission lui serait intégralement versée et la majoration serait à la charge exclusive du Maghzen.

Il y aurait lieu, d'autre part, en attendant le règlement final, de faire les avances nécessaires pour solder les traitements des Délégués. Afin d'éviter toute difficulté de comptabilité et d'échapper à l'obligation de demander des crédits spéciaux aux divers Parlements, il semble au Gouvernement Français qu'il y aurait avantage à s'adresser pour ces paiements à la Banque d'État du Maroc, qui ne se refuserait certainement pas à avancer dans des conditions à déterminer les sommes nécessaires.

Le Gouvernement Français désirerait connaître la manière de voir du Gouvernement Britannique sur ces différents points.

Albert Gate House, le 17 *Août*, 1908.

[29227] No. 33.

Mr. White to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received August 22.)

(No. 47.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Tangier, August* 22, 1908.

I HAVE received a wireless message from the Acting-Consul at Dar-al-Baida, reporting the total defeat on the morning of the 19th instant of the Sultan's expeditionary force. His Majesty evaded capture.

The French Legation believe that the French officers got away to Settat and the Sultan to Tedla, but no definite details have reached them.

Nothing has been heard in regard to Dr. Verdon.

[29237] No. 34.

Mr. White to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received August 22.)

(No. 48.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Tangier, August* 22, 1908.

RECOGNITION of Mulai Hafid.

I have been approached by French Minister, who is afraid that the defeat of the Sultan is final, as to whether Menebhi might be employed as indirect means of communication with Mulai Hafid, in order that Germans may not obtain a preponderating influence in the country by taking initiative in obtaining his recognition by the Powers.

I said I knew that the employment of Menebhi in this way did not commend itself to His Majesty's Government, and I could not therefore encourage the suggestion. Should I assent to the employment of Menebhi in the event of later news making it evident that the cause of the Sultan is lost?

[29238] No. 35.

Mr. White to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received August 23.)

(No. 49.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Tangier, August* 23, 1908.

NEWS has arrived from Settat that the Sultan, accompanied by his Viziers, Dr. Verdon and Sergeant Balding, has arrived there, as well as the French Military Mission.

As Kaïd M'Tougi's force is only one day's march distant from Marakesh, the Sultan's position is not considered by the French General to be beyond hope of recovery, though the defeat of his army appears to have been decisive, the camp guns and everything else falling into the hands of the enemy.

[29239] No. 36.

Mr. White to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received August 23.)

(No. 50.)
(Telegraphic.) *En clair.* *Tangier, August* 23, 1908.

HAFID proclaimed here this evening.

[29365] No. 37.

Mr. White to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received August 24.)

(No. 203.)
Sir, *Tangier, August* 16, 1908.

WITH reference to my despatch No. 188 of the 25th ultimo and to your despatch No. 134 of the 6th instant, I have the honour to report that Mr. Ashmead Bartlett and Mr. H. Carleton left Fez a few days since for Laraiche and Tangier.

Before leaving Fez they informed Hadj Taher Mekwar that they were bearing letters from Mulai Hafid to the King and to yourself, and also a Circular addressed to all the Powers by the people of Fez. Hadj Taher Mekwar states that he has seen this Circular, but he gives no information as to its contents, except that there is nothing objectionable in it. A report reached Tangier some time since that the signatures of the Fez Notables were being obtained to a Petition addressed to the Powers, urging the recognition of Mulai Hafid. This is presumably the document which has been intrusted to Mr. Ashmead Bartlett.

Hadj Taher Mekwar further reports that Mr. Ashmead Bartlett has obtained an order for 8,000 uniforms and boots, 12 cannon and 15,000 rounds of ammunition, and has been requested to engage four English artillerymen to serve for a period of three years.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HERBERT E. WHITE.

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[29451] No. 38.

Mr. E. Ashmead-Bartlett to Sir Edward Grey.—(*Received August* 24.)

Sir, *August* 24, 1907.

ON my departure from Fez, two weeks ago, I was requested by the Sultan Mulai-el-Hafid to deliver the two inclosed letters,* the one addressed to yourself and the other to His Majesty the King.

I told Mulai-el-Hafid that I was not certain if they would be received at the Foreign Office, as he was not recognized by the Powers as Sultan, but that I would hand them over to the proper authorities. This I now have the honour to do.

I am, &c.

(Signed) E. ASHMEAD-BARTLETT.

[29451] No. 39.

Mulai Hafid to Sir Edward Grey.—(*Communicated by Mr. E. Ashmead-Bartlett, August* 24, 1908.)

(Translation.)

In the name of God, the Merciful, the Clement.

Him we worship, and we ask His assistance. He is Omnipotent and the "Defender."

(Seal of Mulai Hafid.)

MY wise and illustrious friend, who strives after the welfare of the nations and the continuance of friendship between them, who is endowed with nobleness and perfect ability in the management of public affairs at all times and on all occasions, the Minister for Foreign Affairs of the respected and beloved country England, Sir Edward Grey!

After many inquiries about you and your welfare, and many eulogiums of your good qualities and excellent character, I inform you, my dear friend, that I have written a letter to the beloved Ruler of your illustrious country, King Edward the VIIth—may God preserve the interest he takes in all that is connected with the affairs of Morocco, where difficulties have arisen for the reasons I have explained in my letter to him; and I hope from his love of justice and his conscientiousness and his striving after the welfare of Mahommedans in general, that he will co-operate in the solution of those difficulties, so that I may obtain my rights.

Herewith I send this letter for His Majesty, and request you to put it before him and to favour his acceding to what I have requested, and to answer me so that men's minds may be relieved.

May you and your honoured country never cease to be preserved from misfortune!

Written in the month of Rejeb, in the year 1326.

Inclosure in No. 39.

Mulai Hafid to King Edward VII.

(Translation.)

In the name of God, the Merciful, the Clement.

Him we worship, and we ask His aid. He is the Omnipotent One and the "Defender."

(Seal of Mulai Hafid.)

MY dear friend, the illustrious Prince, the beloved King, the focus of all political virtues, you, who are distinguished for your justice, the great Monarch, who is the Ruler over Great Britain and Ireland and the countries of India, King Edward the VIIth!

* See No. 39.

I have written this letter to you from our sacred city, the capital of Morocco, the famous town of Fez, which has been the seat of our Kings for ages. I write to inform you that the ties of friendship for you remain firm, and that its duties are preserved and respected owing to your noble character and your excellent habits, of which every one is aware, and especially owing to the care you take for the good treatment of the Mahommedans who live in your dominions, and your benign way of dealing with them, and your abstaining from interfering with their rights.

Your Majesty is aware of what has happened in Morocco, by the will of God, and that all Morocco has recognized me as Sultan, and unanimously asked that I should myself attend to the affairs of the State. I have ascended the Throne of Morocco by the will of the people and their consent, chosen by them and asked by them; and I have undertaken this duty owing to my brother, Mulai Abd-ul-Aziz, being incapable of bearing the burden of it. May God preserve him! And he brought misery on the country and mismanaged it, and committed extravagance to such a degree that it became known to the whole world, and this was so notorious that it is unnecessary for me to report it all to your Majesty, until the people dethroned him and deserted him, and no one remained with him except those under the oppression of the French established at Casa Blanca. We used our best endeavour to bring about security and order throughout Morocco, and we restrained the tribes and the soldiers, and prevented them from being impetuous in all places, in order that untruthful complaints should not be made about them in the same way as they reported about me, that I have declared a "jehad" (holy war against the Christians) and that I am preparing for it, their object being to disturb the minds of the foreigners and terrify them and cause them to spread such rumours, which are without foundation and have no truth in them; for my wish is to bring about tranquillity throughout all Morocco in general, and in her ports and on her coasts, so that all the people and the foreign merchants may sleep in safety without anxiety. These reports were spread by those who wish to cause me trouble, and they also stated that I hate foreigners and do not like to have intercourse with them. All this is libel and there is no truth in it, for I adhere to the old Treaties and the stipulations made therein in dealing with all foreigners. I do not change or alter what they lay down, and I do not violate any of their conditions. I also accept the conditions of the Convention of Algeciras, as they are based on the agreement of all the friendly Powers, and I have no objection to all that. I have not ceased to treat foreigners with the kindness and attention which it is my duty to show them, and I protect them, as the merchants from your country will tell you, who are beloved by me.

I would not have undertaken what I have done except at the request of the majority of the people of Morocco in general, as I have related to you. And some time ago certain ships appeared on our coasts and anchored in our seaports to press the people not to follow the example of their brother Mahommedans who installed me as Sultan. If it had not been for this the voice of the people would have been completely unanimous, and all the unfortunate events would have been averted, and the general state of things would have been good, trade would have flourished, and there would have been nothing to cause disturbance. This what I have said was what threw men's minds into a state of perturbation. God could not agree with this, nor could people of sense agree with it, especially your Majesty; you who are distinguished for your wisdom and good management and your love of justice. How long are affairs to be kept in a state of disturbance, and the people in a state of anxiety and affliction, and trade at a standstill? And everybody knows the cause of all this. The reason of this is, as your Majesty is well aware, that the different Powers all agreed to the preservation of the independence of Morocco and her people, the meaning of that being that no opponent should be allowed to do as he liked, and this independence was not given to my brother aforementioned personally, but to Morocco and her people; and how could they put up with being forced to do what they do not wish. These complications which have arisen in this question have made it my duty to demand my rights according to law and religion, and I hope from your friendship that you will co-operate in the settlement of these complications and look into them carefully, so that the right thing may be done for the comfort of all. Owing to what the conditions laid down by the Conference stated about the preservation of the independence of Morocco and her people and the Powers binding themselves to perfect neutrality, I have continued to adhere to controlling my troops and our tribes, and preventing them from entering the Shawia country to pursue my brother, although I was in the vicinity of it, for the sake of tranquillity. I did this hoping that things would get better, and that the French Government would adhere to what it had bound itself to do as regards being

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neutral. We have heard the word "neutrality" from them, but not seen a vestige of the thing itself. I did not send troops to the Shawia country for the sake of tranquillity, and I did not cease to hope that things would improve. And had that not been so, I should certainly have ordered the troops and the tribes to conquer that country and to punish those who are with him. Had the victory been with me, he would not see anything but goodness and kindness from me, and I would permit him to reside where he likes, and send him what belongs to him, and he would live respected and honoured, on condition that he gave up the command and thought no more about it. I would do this owing to his being a relation, and from mercy. I would not exile him. Had he been victorious he could have done what he liked. But what prevented me from entering that country where my brother had gone was the hope that justice would prevail in this question, and that it might be settled without trouble and slaughter, as I wish it may. I ask you, my dear friend, to stand by me in my obtaining my rights according to law and justice, for you are praised for your love of justice and your kindness to the Moslems in your dominions and in general, so that this question may be cleared up in a way beneficial to all, free from prejudice and intrigue.

May you never cease to be praised throughout the world and in every language for your laudable efforts, and may you ever be preserved from all misfortunes.

Written on the 15th of the month of Rejeb, in the year 1326.

[29644] No. 40.

Sir M. de Bunsen to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received August 26.)

(No. 109. Confidential.)

Sir, *San Sebastian, August* 14, 1908.

I WAS glad to derive from my conversations with the French Ambassador, on my return to Spain, the impression that the relations between French and Spaniards at Casa Blanca had now been placed on a fairly satisfactory footing, and that there was little likelihood of a recurrence of the friction between them which, a few months ago, produced such an outcry in Spain. M. Révoil informed me that the Spanish Riff soldiers had been withdrawn, as also some of the French Algerian troops. This had considerably relieved the tension, and when the Spanish Commander, Colonel Bernal, left Casa Blanca a few weeks ago, his departure was made the occasion of a very friendly demonstration on the part of General d'Amade and his officers. On both sides there was a marked desire to prevent in future any fresh outburst of ill-feeling. M. Révoil said that the language held to him recently by the King of Spain on this subject was all that he could have desired. It was, of course, true that co-operation between French and Spanish troops could never be carried out without some difficulties arising. The dilatory habits of the Spaniards, their tendency to play exclusively their own game, the pride and sensitiveness inherent in the national character were bound to cause trouble from time to time. But the two Governments were in full agreement, and the present summer afforded a most agreeable contrast to that of last year, when no sort of understanding existed between the two contingents.

The French Ambassador has now gone on leave for a few weeks, and I am sorry to notice that his favourable estimate of the situation is by no means confirmed by King Alfonso.

His Majesty honoured me with an audience a few days ago and plunged at once into a dissertation on the irritating behaviour of the French in Morocco. His Majesty's language was precisely similar to that which he employed in the month of May last, when, as reported in my despatch No. 78 of the 23rd May, he held forth to me on his intention of withdrawing the Spanish contingent altogether unless the French improved their manners. In contrast with the French Ambassador's recollection of his interview with the King, His Majesty said he had been obliged to adopt a stiff demeanour in speaking to his Excellency so that the latter might labour under no misapprehension. There might be some outward improvement in the dealings of the French officers with those of the Spanish contingent, but this was purely superficial, and the Spanish troops were still frequently exposed to jeers and insults from the French Algerians, especially when the latter returned from one of their military expeditions. Some day the Spaniards would be provoked into making violent reprisals, and the King said he could not blame them if they did. It was not in the Spanish character to take a blow lying down. Moreover, the French methods of warfare were often barbarous. A Spanish

officer, who had been attached to General d'Amade's staff on one of his raids into the interior, had lately returned to Spain on leave. He told the King that he had been an eye-witness of the massacre of a whole crowd of Moorish non-combatants, old men, women, and children who had taken refuge in a hollow and been pitilessly and quite uselessly shot down by the French troops. The King was convinced that his officer spoke the truth.

His Majesty went on to say that he feared the reports which reached England from Morocco were founded mainly on French information, and that they were sometimes read (in His Majesty's words) "through French spectacles." I at once assured His Majesty that, in the many British diplomatic and consular despatches from Morocco which I had had opportunities of reading, the situation of Casa Blanca and Tangier was treated with the utmost impartiality, and with full recognition of the delicacy and difficulty of the position occupied by the Spanish force at Casa Blanca. I dwelt on the importance of Spain continuing in the eyes of Europe to extend her support to France, in carrying out the arduous task of maintaining order along the coast districts. The ultimate claims of Spain to a special position along the north coast were assured, I said, by her agreements with France, provided she gave France no valid pretext for repudiating them. I hoped therefore that the utmost patience might be displayed, in the event of any further irritation arising.

The King trusted nothing would occur to force on Spain any action she might afterwards have cause to regret, but he said he could assure me that if troops had to be landed in Tangier, he would send four soldiers to every one sent by France, and would insist on the command being in Spanish hands. I smiled on hearing this exaggerated language, but His Majesty said he was in earnest, and that it was intolerable to find that an Algerian private, enrolled, no doubt under French instigation, in the native police force at Tangier, which was organized and controlled by Spanish officers, had induced a considerable portion of this force to desert, in order, evidently, to diminish, in the interest of France, the authority of Spain within the walls of Tangier.

I said I had heard nothing of this incident, which had caused great annoyance to the King.

Though I have often reported how great is the unpopularity in Spain of the policy of co-operation with France in Morocco, it would, I think, be a mistake to consider that the King's language, as held in a free and confidential conversation with myself, indicating any present change in the attitude of Spain. Señor Maura's Government continues to express outwardly its whole-hearted support of that policy, and Señor Allendesalazar has not even alluded of late, in the course of our interviews, to the existence of any particular friction at Casa Blanca.

The King's words are, however, worthy perhaps of note as reflecting the feelings of the Spanish army. Military sentiment has felt itself crushed and humiliated by the self-effacing part which the Spanish contingent has been called upon to play. The higher officers of the army have frequent access to the King, and His Majesty lends a ready hearing to their grievances.

But there is no sign as yet that the army, even with the powerful advocacy of the King, will succeed in moving the Spanish Government to abandon the line of action which it has advisedly adopted.

I have, &c.
(Signed) MAURICE DE BUNSEN.

[28733] No. 41.

Memorandum communicated to the French Embassy, August 26, 1908.

THE Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs has carefully considered the contents of the Memorandum communicated to this Department by the French Chargé d'Affaires on the 17th instant, and is prepared to concur in the proposal of the French Government that a surcharge of 5 per cent. should be added to the amount of the indemnities awarded by the International Commission at Casa Blanca to provide for the salaries of the European Delegates and of their private secretaries. Sir E. Grey presumes that it is the intention of the French Government that the Commissioners of each State shall be remunerated out of the proceeds of the 5 per cent. surcharge on the amounts awarded to their own compatriots, and not that a general fund shall be formed out of which the salaries of all the European Delegates and their secretaries would be paid.

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Sir E. Grey agrees that, pending the final settlement, the State Bank should be asked to advance from time to time the sums required for the remuneration of the Commissioners and their secretaries.

Foreign Office, August 25, 1908.

[29478] No. 42.

Sir Edward Grey to Mr. White.

(No. 25.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Foreign Office, August* 26, 1908.

YOUR telegram No. 48 of the 22nd instant.

If Menebhi is willing, there seems to be no objection in the present circumstances to the French attempting to communicate through him with Mulai Hafid. You may inform your French colleague of the above.

[29797] No. 43.

Sir F. Bertie to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received August 27.)

(No. 38.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Paris, August* 27, 1908.

MOROCCO.

I have been requested by the Minister for Foreign Affairs to inform you that a proposal has been made by the Spanish Government that France and Spain should at once proceed to recognize Mulai Hafid as Sultan in order to avoid the possibility of Germany taking the initiative. In reply to this proposal, made through the Spanish Ambassador, his Excellency has been requested by M. Pichon to inform the Spanish Government that, in the opinion of the French Government, it is not probable that Germany will take any action of this nature, and that they think it would be very premature to recognize Mulai Hafid at present, since Abdul Aziz has neither abdicated nor disappeared, and Mulai Hafid's rule is only acknowledged in certain localities. It is also possible that other Pretenders might come forward. The policy proposed by the French Government is that the French and Spanish Governments should settle, in consultation with His Majesty's Government, the conditions which should be attached to the recognition of Mulai Hafid should he eventually make good his position, and that an identic note should be prepared for presentation to the Powers whenever the moment may seem opportune, proposing the recognition of Mulai Hafid or any other person who might establish his position as Ruler of Morocco. M. Pichon has requested the Spanish Ambassador in Paris to telegraph this proposal to Madrid, and he hopes that His Majesty's Government will support it there.

M. Pichon will keep the Russian Government informed of the steps taken by France, but he does not propose to consult them in the matter.

[29812] No. 44.

Sir F. Cartwright to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received August 28.)

(No. 93.)
Sir, *Munich, August* 26, 1908.

THE sudden collapse of Sultan Abdul Aziz in Morocco has not come as a great surprise to the German public, who for a long time past had been informed by their newspapers that this Sultan's prospects were daily growing less bright, and that the rumours of his successes were invented by the French Government to deceive the world. The general view held here is that the disappearance of Sultan Abdul Aziz from Morocco is a blow to French prestige in that country, and for that reason a certain amount of satisfaction is expressed with regard to it. The newspapers, however, show some doubt whether this event will in reality prove advantageous to Germany in Morocco, as of late German policy towards that country has been vacillating and wanting in energy. The public are at a loss to know whither Germany is drifting with regard to the Moroccan question, which she took up so violently a few years ago, but which she now seems to show a disinclination to take a leading part in.

Prince Bülow's organ, the "Süddeutsche Reichskorrespondenz," of to-day, professes to throw some light on the views of the Imperial Government with regard to the latest event in Morocco, but, like all recent official communiqués on Moroccan affairs, this one is rather vague and indefinite in its tone. The substance of what the "Süddeutsche Reichskorrespondenz" has to say is as follows: The collapse of the position of Sultan Abdul Aziz is the end of a state of things which was unreal in itself, and which was merely kept up by artificial means. This would really have some significance if it conveyed with it the certainty that it would put an end to a policy whose aim was to impose upon the people of Morocco a Sultan who was distasteful to them. The right of Morocco to select her own Sultan should not be a mere empty phrase. It is to be hoped that the Great Powers, who are abstaining from interference with the national movement in Turkey, will not try to oppose the evident wishes of the people of Morocco, so clearly expressed by the proclamation at Tangier of Mulay Hafid as Sultan. What is the position of the Powers towards Mulay Hafid? What is the latter's position towards the Powers? These questions cannot be settled in a moment. Anyhow, it would be in the general interest if the people of Morocco could be quickly and thoroughly informed of the intentions of the French Government towards their country. As for the European Powers, they would all be glad to prevent a return to that state of tension which Morocco once produced, and which has only been bridged over with considerable difficulty.

The German press generally has scarcely had time as yet to make up its mind definitely with regard to the new situation in Morocco, and therefore, as a rule, shows great reserve in dealing with it. The independent "Frankfort Gazette" expresses the hope that France will now pursue a more sensible policy towards Morocco; it says that the majority of Frenchmen have not approved of the attitude of their Government in this question, and they accuse them of having been too much influenced by a small clique who wished to support Sultan Abdul Aziz at all costs for their own purposes, entirely ignoring the interests of other nations. It will be with a sense of relief that the Powers will learn of the breakdown of such a policy. So far the world has been led to believe that the policy of France was linked to the person of Sultan Abdul Aziz; now that this connection is broken one can again breathe freely as one is rid of an incubus. All along the French Government have been following a double policy; on one hand they were supporting Sultan Abdul Aziz, while on the other they publicly professed their neutrality in the struggle between the two rival Sultans. It is to be hoped that this double dealing will now enable them, with a plausible show of dignity, to recognize Mulay Hafid without much loss of time as the legitimate Sultan of Morocco.

The Munich "Neueste Nachrichten" expresses itself in very strong terms against what it considers to be the colourless and undignified recent policy of Germany towards Morocco. In referring to a statement made by a French newspaper that the victory of Mulay Hafid over Abdul Aziz was a victory gained by the Kaiser, the Munich organ says that the Imperial Government can lay no claim to such praise, as the weak policy they have pursued in Moroccan affairs has rendered their influence in Morocco a *quantité négligeable* in the fullest sense of the term. On the other hand, it is quite certain that Mulay Hafid's victory is a serious blow dealt at French policy, and for that reason it has accidentally become beneficial to German interests. Unfortunately the indolence of the German Foreign Office is the best ally of the keen and aggressive French policy, which is clever enough even to attempt to draw advantage from this apparent defeat. For should it lead to the calling together of a new Conference it may be expected that such a Conference will end in a triumph for France and in a check for Germany, as was the case at Algeciras. On the other hand, if Mulay Hafid's victory leads to his prompt recognition as Sultan by France and Spain, as the mandatories of Europe, Moroccan people will be led to believe that the matter has been settled by these two Powers alone, and Germany will do nothing to correct this fatally erroneous impression.

It seems to me that there is a great body of public opinion in this country which is entirely dissatisfied with the Moroccan policy pursued by the German Foreign Office for some time past, and it complains that every important step in Moroccan developments is more or less settled by France alone, and the Imperial Government, for reasons which are not clear, meekly accept these decisions without making any serious protest against them.

I have, &c.
(Signed) FAIRFAX L. CARTWRIGHT.

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[29804] No. 45.

Sir F. Bertie to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received August 28.)

(No. 322.)

Sir, *Paris, August 27, 1908.*

I RECEIVED yesterday evening a message from the Minister for Foreign Affairs, proposing to come to the Embassy this morning to see me, and he called at 11·30. The object of his visit was to tell me that the Spanish Ambassador had yesterday made a communication to him from the Spanish Government, proposing that France and Spain should immediately recognize Mulai Hafid as Sultan of Morocco, so as to obviate an initiative on the part of Germany. M. Pichon had, he told me, observed to the Marquis del Muni that he did not think it likely that the German Government would take any initiative, and that it seemed to the French Government very premature to recognize Mulai Hafid at present, his rule being acknowledged only in certain localities. Abdul Aziz had not abdicated or withdrawn from the scene, and other Pretenders might put in an appearance. The course which recommended itself to the French Government would be that the Governments of France and Spain should between them, and in consultation with His Majesty's Government, settle the exact terms on which Mulai Hafid might eventually be recognized if he made good his position in Morocco, and that an identic note should be drawn up which the French and Spanish Governments could, when the opportune moment arrived, address to the Powers, proposing that Mulai Hafid, or another who might make good his position as Ruler, should be recognized by them.

M. Pichon said that he hoped that you would concur with him in considering what he had suggested to be the best course to adopt in present circumstances, and that you would instruct His Majesty's Ambassador at Madrid to support the policy proposed by the French Government.

M. Pichon intends to keep the Russian Government informed of the proceedings of the French Government, but not to consult them to the same extent as he does His Majesty's Government.

I have, &c.
(Signed) FRANCIS BERTIE.

[29966] No. 46.

Note communicated by Count de Manneville, August 28, 1908.

ON redoute des troubles à Salé et à Rabat. Un second croiseur Français, le "Desain," a été envoyé devant ces villes. Les forces Françaises ont ordre de n'intervenir qu'en cas de danger grave menaçant les Européens et après avis conforme du Corps Consulaire.

Le 27 Août, 1908.

[29797] No. 47.

Sir Edward Grey to Sir F. Bertie.

(No. 128.)

(Telegraphic.) P. *Foreign Office, August 29, 1908*

RECOGNITION of Mulai Hafid.

His Majesty's Government concur in the course of action proposed by the French Government, as reported in your telegram No. 38 of the 27th instant, and are informing the Spanish Government in this sense. At the same time they consider it desirable that the conditions upon which Mulai Hafid's recognition shall depend should be determined as soon as possible, in case he should quickly establish his position. The French proposals on this point are awaited.

[29916] No. 46*.

Sir M. de Bunsen to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received August 28.)

(No. 25.)

(Telegraphic.) P. *San Sebastian, August 28, 1908.*

MOROCCO. Sir F. Bertie's telegram No. 38 of the 27th instant.

I gather from the official in charge of the Foreign Office during the temporary absence of Señor Allendesalazar that the Spanish Government are anxious that the conditions on which Mulai Hafid might be recognized should be settled between them and the French Government with as little delay as possible, especially as Abdul Aziz is now said to have given up the struggle. My informant told me that the Spanish Government have been urging this course for the last two months on the French Government, but that the latter were always unwilling to discuss the question so long as Abdul Aziz still had some hope of maintaining his position, and that even now they seemed in no hurry to accept the new state of affairs. I advised patience and concerted action with France.

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[30162]

No. 48.

Mr. White to Sir Edward Grey.—(*Received August* 31.)

(No. 209.)

Tangier, August 20, 1908.

Sir,

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith translation of a letter addressed to the doyen of the Diplomatic Corps by Cid Torres and Cid Guebbas stating that, as Fez, Marakesh, and Alcazar are in a state of war, orders have been given to the Moorish authorities to prevent any Europeans from going to those places or their districts, and requesting the foreign Representatives to warn their nationals that they must not visit those districts, and that the Moorish Government decline all responsibility for anything that may occur to persons exposing themselves to danger.

The Delegates also addressed a letter to the foreign Representatives individually, referring to the above-mentioned letter and adding a protest against any Europeans going to unsafe places or beyond the Government Guard posts, which are close to the town. They further state that they have learnt that some protégés in the northern provinces have joined the rebels and are fomenting trouble, and they disclaim responsibility in regard to the lives and properties of these persons.

These letters were discussed at the meeting of the Diplomatic Body held this morning, and it was considered that the Moorish Government was justified, in view of the state of civil war at present existing in the country, in endeavouring to prevent Europeans from going up to Fez to lend their support to the cause of Mulai Hafid, and that they could not fairly be held responsible for any harm that might befall foreigners visiting dangerous districts. The Representatives were also of opinion that if foreign protégés were guilty of rebellion the Makhzen was free to punish them. At the same time it was considered prudent to reply in somewhat vague terms to the letter, as it was feared that the Moorish authorities might indiscriminately seize the property of foreigners in the hands of their protégés on the plea that they were rebels.

It was accordingly decided that the doyen should reply to Cid Torres and Cid Guebbas acknowledging receipt of the letters sent to each Legation as well as that sent to himself, merely stating that as no names or specific cases were cited the foreign Representatives had no information as to how far the allegations were correct, but that they would warn their nationals and protégés to be prudent and not to take part in the disturbances.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HERBERT E. WHITE.

Inclosure in No. 48.

Cid Torres to the Doyen of the Diplomatic Corps.

(Compliments.)

VOTRE Excellence n'ignore pas que Fez, Marakesh, et Alcazar sont actuellement en état de guerre où des actes d'agression ne cessent de s'accomplir en tout temps ; les étrangers et tous ceux qui se rendent à l'un des points indiqués ne sont pas en sécurité, et s'exposent à des dangers, comme il est arrivé au médecin militaire officiel Belenguer, de nationalité Espagnole, qui, s'étant rendu près des alentours d'Alcazar, des malfaiteurs l'ont arrêté et ont été sur le point de se débarrasser de lui. Des ordres ont été donnés aux autorités Makhzeniennes d'empêcher le passage de tout Européen vers les points indiqués afin d'éloigner sa personne de tout danger et de couper court aux troubles que sa présence aux environs des points indiqués pourrait produire à la tranquillité publique.

Nous avons jugé nécessaire de vous donner ainsi avis de ce qui précède, pour que vous le portiez à la connaissance des honorables Représentants des Puissances étrangères afin de faire le nécessaire auprès de vos sujets, qui doivent se garder de se rendre aux points indiqués et à leurs régions, le Makhzen déclinant toute responsabilité si quelqu'un s'exposait à des dangers pareils. Nous sommes persuadés que vous nous appuyerez dans cette mesure, afin que les rapports restent pour tout le monde tel qu'on les désire.

(Signé) TORRES ET GUEBBAS.

Tanger, le 15 *Août*, 1908.

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[30163] No. 49.

Mr. White to Sir Edward Grey.—(*Received August* 31.)

(No. 210.) *Tangier, August* 22, 1908.

Sir,

WITH reference to my despatch No. 202, Confidential, of the 9th instant, I have the honour to report that Hadj Taher Mikwar has informed Mr. Consul MacLeod that Dr. Wilkinson, upon his arrival at Fez, was very well received by Mulai Hafid, who appointed him his medical attendant, and presented him with a fine horse and saddle. He also assigned to him a house, and gave orders that he should be supplied with provisions.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HERBERT E. WHITE.

[30165] No. 50.

Mr. White to Sir Edward Grey.—(*Received August* 31.)

(No. 212.) *Tangier, August* 23, 1908.

Sir,

THE news of the practical annihilation of the Sultan's force came as a surprise to Tangier, and has naturally created a deep impression. The news from the south had lately been very favourable. Kaïd M'Tugi, after various less important successes, had gained a decisive victory over the Hafidist forces opposed to him, the loyal Seraghna tribe, with the help of reinforcements sent by the Sultan, had inflicted a severe defeat on the rebel forces under Kaïd Sektani, and the Sultan had successfully dealt with other bodies of rebels and had received important submissions. On the other hand, the force dispatched by Mulai Hafid from Fez under Kaïd-el-Glawi and Kaïd Assa-ben-Omar was held up for some time by the Beni M'Tir tribe, and was only allowed to pass after a considerable delay. The Sultan's prospects thus appeared brighter than they had for some time, when news was suddenly received which made it appear that his cause was irretrievably lost.

As far as I have been able to ascertain from the somewhat meagre reports that have as yet been received, the Sultan was desirous, before marching on Marakesh, to subdue all the rebel tribes in the neighbourhood, and, after having been successful in various directions, was attacking a place near the foot of the Atlas, probably in Zamran, when a portion of his army suddenly turned and fled; a panic ensued, and the troops fired indiscriminately on friend and foe alike. The Algerians in charge of the artillery attempted to make a stand, but their men threw the ammunition, &c., off the mules and rode away on them. On reaching the camp everything was pillaged by the troops themselves, and then there was a general stampede northwards. The fugitives were fired on by the tribesmen through whose districts they passed, and on reaching Showia, instead of being in safety as they had expected, people continued to attack and rob them. The French officer in command of Settat sent out a column to their rescue, and the Sultan, the Viziers, Dr. Verdon, and the members of the French Military Mission, all eventually reached that place in safety, straggling in separately.

M. Regnault read to me a telegram he had received from General d'Amade, who expressed the opinion that, in view of the fact that Kaïd M'Tugi's force was at Frouga, about a day's march only from Marakesh, the Sultan's position was not entirely hopeless. I fear, however, that the news of the practical annihilation of His Majesty's army will produce an immense impression throughout the country, and if the rebel forces now combine in an attack upon Kaïd M'Tugi his position would be critical.

It is probable that Mulai Hafid will be proclaimed at some of the ports when news of the disaster to the Sultan's army is received. At Tangier there is already talk of this, a meeting of some of the leading Notables having been held last night to discuss the situation. It was, however, decided not to proclaim Mulai Hafid yet, but another meeting is now being held, and even if the decision is maintained the matter will continue to be discussed from day to day, and if on receipt of fuller details it is found that the Sultan's position is hopeless, Mulai Hafid will doubtless be proclaimed.

There has been some unrest lately amongst the country people in this neighbourhood, owing to the presence of bodies of rebel troops and tribesmen, who have practically surrounded the Makhzen force under Kaïd Bu Auda, the Hafidist forces

under Kaïd Rmiki and El-Amrani threatening him on the south. Reports are current in town to-day that Kaïd Bu Auda himself has now gone over to Mulai Hafid, but this lacks confirmation.

All available troops having lately been sent to reinforce Kaïd Bu Auda, there are but a small body of soldiers left here, but, with the assistance of the police, they should be sufficient to maintain order in the immediate neighbourhood of the town. There have been successful attacks on the Makhzen outposts during the last few days, and it is possible that, when the defeat of the Sultan becomes generally known, the rebels may become bolder, and an attempt will be made to force the town to proclaim Mulai Hand. So far, however, there has been no anti-European manifestations, and I do not anticipate, for the present at any rate, any danger to the lives or property of Europeans.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HERBERT E. WHITE.

August 24.

P.S.—Mulai Hafid was proclaimed late yesterday afternoon, the Notables fearing a delay in so doing might bring about an attack by the neighbouring tribesmen. A meeting was held, to which all the principal people were summoned by the Basha. Sid Torres and the other officials attended, and Sid Guebbas and Sid-el-Menebhi, who had gone first to see the French Minister, arrived after the decision to proclaim Mulai Hafid had been come to and the act of homage written out. Sid Torres signed first, and then Sid Guebbas and Sid-el-Menebhi; all the other officials and Notables signed afterwards. A Royal salute was fired and there was general rejoicing in the town. Everything passed off very quietly, and there was not the slightest disturbance or anti-Christian demonstration.

H. E. W.

[30358] No. 51.

Mr. White to Sir Edward Grey.—(*Received August* 31.)

(No. 53.)
(Telegraphic. P.) *Tangier, August* 31, 1908.

DR. VASSEL, the German Consul at Fez, left here to-day to return to his post. The preparations for his journey were made quite secretly, and the German Legation gave no hint of his impending departure.

[30464] No. 52.

Mr. Dering to Sir Edward Grey.—(*Received September* 1.)

(No. 32. Confidential.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Stockholm, September* 1, 1908.

MOROCCO. The German Minister has, he tells me, been instructed to ask the Swedish Government if they would be prepared to acknowledge Mulai Hafid in Morocco. The Secretary-General had replied that Sweden would do as others did in the matter. Count Pückler told me that he was under the impression that the German Government would have addressed a similar question to you.

The Secretary-General's inquiry of me earlier in the day at the Foreign Office as to whether I had any news of Moroccan affairs would thus be accounted for. Count Pückler's remark to me was somewhat of an indiscretion, so I would beg that he should not be quoted.

[30463] No. 53.

Mr. White to Sir Edward Grey.—(*Received September* 1.)

(No. 54.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Tangier, September* 1, 1908.

GERMAN Consul's return to Fez.

The German Minister informs me that Dr. Vassel's return to his post, as reported

in my telegram No. 53 of the 31st August, has no political object, being connected purely with the settlement of German claims.

It is difficult to accept this assurance if the special position of Consuls at Fez is taken into account.

[30483] No. 54.

Mr. Graham to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received September 2.)

(No. 16.)

Algiers, August 29, 1908.

Sir,

I HAVE the honour to forward herewith a copy of a despatch from Mr. Vice-Consul Barber, with reference to recent events on the Moroccan frontier.

I have, &c.

(Signed) L. G. C. GRAHAM.

Inclosure in No. 54.

Vice-Consul Barber to Consul-General Hay-Newton.

Oran, August 27, 1908.

Sir,

WHEN in London three years ago you desired me to keep you informed of events on the Morocco frontier; hence the following, which I trust may be of service:—

I have just been informed from a most reliable source that the recent visit of the Moorish Minister, El Guebbas, has resulted in the Beni Snassen country having become a French Protectorate. There are three French military posts firmly established—Aberkane, some 25 miles from the frontier, in the middle of the Beni Snassen; Martimprey, close to the frontier, near Marnia; and Kelea, close to the frontier, near Port Say or Kiss.

The French are also establishing a custom-house on the right bank at the embouchure of the Moulouya, and it is stated that a certain portion of the customs dues are to be handed over to Abd-el-Aziz. The French have now acquired their coveted natural frontier, *i.e.*, the country right up to the right bank of the Moulouya (Rio del Oro of the Spaniards); the Casbah of Saïdia, which was the object of some agitation some three years ago, now becomes French territory or under French Protectorate.

It has long been an open secret that the Pacha in command was in the pay of the French Government, not that he could be of much use from a military point of view.

I have, &c.

(Signed) THOS. BARBER.

[30559] No. 55.

Sir F. Lascelles to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received September 2.)

(No. 42.)

(Telegraphic.) P.

Berlin, September 2, 1908.

THE German Representatives at the Courts of the Signatory Powers have been instructed by the Imperial Government to urge that, in the interests of the ultimate pacification of Morocco, Mulai Hafid should be recognized as soon as possible.

The "Times" correspondent is informed by the Imperial Foreign Office that no action on the above instructions has yet been taken. He gathered that the Imperial Government were waiting to see what effect would be produced on the French Government by the semi-official communication of the above intimation to the press last night.

[30462] No. 56.

Sir M. de Bunsen to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received September 2.)

(No. 25.)

(Telegraphic.) P.

San Sebastian, September 1, 1908.

MOROCCO.

With reference to my telegram No. 25 of the 28th ultimo, I am informed by the Minister for Foreign Affairs that the Spanish and French Governments have now practically settled between themselves the conditions on which they will recognize Mulai Hafid. A note explaining the situation and suggesting recognition will be soon issued to the Powers.

[30575] No. 57.

Sir M. de Bunsen to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received September 2.)

(No. 29.)

(Telegraphic.) P.

San Sebastian, September 2, 1908.

MOROCCO. My telegram No. 28 of yesterday.

One of the conditions which Mulai Hafid will be called upon to accept prior to his recognition by the French and Spanish Governments requires him, I understand, to assume responsibility for the military expenditure incurred by France and Spain, each Power submitting its claims independently.

This condition, the French Chargé d'Affaires tells me confidentially, is inserted in deference to French Parliamentary opinion, but a larger indemnity than Morocco could reasonably afford to pay is not likely to be insisted on.

In the opinion of the Spanish Minister for Foreign Affairs, the acceptance of this condition will be difficult to obtain, but it stands nevertheless in the draft note for communication to the Powers as it reads at present.

[30579] No. 58.

Sir F. Bertie to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received September 3.)

(No. 328.)

Sir,

Paris, September 2, 1908.

I HAVE the honour to transmit to you herewith the text of a communiqué which has appeared in the "Temps" of this evening's issue, relative to the question of recognizing Mulai Hafid as Sultan of Morocco.

The communiqué states that, in view of the attitude of Germany towards this question as set forth in the "North German Gazette," and in view of the insinuations as to France's attitude contained in the note published by that journal, it is necessary to affirm the principles which have decided the French Government's point of view. These principles—which are four in number—are stated categorically. The view on these four points adopted by France and Spain is known to all the Governments, and has hitherto met with no objection from the German Government.

I have, &c.

(Signed) FRANCIS BERTIE.

Inclosure in No. 58.

Extract from the "Temps" of September 3, 1908.

LA FRANCE, L'ALLEMAGNE, ET LE MAROC.—La note de la "Gazette de l'Allemagne du Nord," complétée par les commentaires des journaux Allemands que nous avons donnés plus haut, semble indiquer que si l'Allemagne insiste pour la prompte reconnaissance ("rasche Anerkennung") de Moulaï Hafid, c'est que la France se serait dérobée à cette reconnaissance, en manœuvrant avec une lenteur calculée pour maintenir une situation équivoque.

En présence de cette insinuation, nous avons cru devoir préciser nettement l'attitude de la France depuis que la question s'est posée. Voici, à ce sujet, les renseignements qui nous ont été fournis.

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Dès le lendemain de la proclamation de Moulaï Hafid à Tanger, la France, qui, par l'organe de M. Regnault, avait répondu à Mnebhi et à El Guebbas qu'elle se désintéressait de la question dynastique et n'exigeait que le maintien de l'ordre, a précisé son point de vue dans les affirmations suivantes :—

1. Il est nécessaire que les Puissances étudient d'abord les garanties à obtenir pour les intérêts Européens.

2. L'entente des Puissances sur ces garanties est aussi nécessaire que ces garanties elles-mêmes.

3. Il y a encore trop d'inconnu dans la situation intérieure du Maroc pour qu'une décision puisse être prise avant complète information.

4. Sous ces réserves, la France n'a montré à aucun moment le parti pris de ne pas reconnaître Moulaï Hafid. Elle entend seulement que sa situation de fait soit précisée.

La France et l'Espagne ont, dès le 26 Août, envisagé ces quatre propositions pour soumettre aux Puissances les conclusions qu'elles devaient leur suggérer.

Leur point de vue, ainsi défini, est connu de toutes les Chancelleries.

Il n'avait provoqué jusqu'ici aucune objection du Gouvernement Allemand.

[30694] No. 59.

Mr. Wyndham to Sir Edward Grey.—(*Received September* 3.)

(No. 35.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Rome, September* 3, 1908.

GERMAN action respecting Morocco.

I am informed by French Chargé d'Affaires that a suggestion has been made to the Italian Government by the German Chargé d'Affaires to the effect that Mulai Hafid should be recognized.

[30683] No. 60.

Sir M. de Bunsen to Sir Edward Grey.—(*Received September* 3.)

(No. 30.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *San Sebastian, September* 3, 1908.

MOROCCO. Sir F. Lascelles' telegram No. 42 of yesterday.

On the 1st September the German Chargé d'Affaires informed the Spanish Foreign Minister that he was instructed to urge the early recognition of Mulai Hafid. Señor Allendesalazar replied that the French and Spanish Governments were taking the necessary steps towards that object by preparing a note to the Powers containing the conditions under which Mulai Hafid's position should be recognized.

[30688] No. 61.

Sir Edward Grey to Sir M. de Bunsen.

(No. 12.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Foreign Office, September* 3, 1908.

RECOGNITION of Mulai Hafid. Your telegram No. 28 of the 1st instant.

The Spanish Government, according to information in possession of the French Government, have sent instructions to their Representative at Berlin to make an immediate and confidential communication to the German Government to the effect that the Signatory Powers of the Algeciras Act might be approached with a view to their recognizing Mulai Hafid as soon as he shall have announced his accession to the throne and his willingness to adhere to existing Treaty obligations.

The French Government, in view of the Agreement just come to with the Spanish Government, have instructed their Representative at San Sebastian to convey to the Spanish Government an expression of their surprise at this action, and to request that the instructions issued to the Spanish Representative at Berlin should be cancelled.

You should lend your general support in this matter to your French colleague.

[30508] No. 62.

Sir Edward Grey to Sir F. Bertie.

(No. 419. Confidential.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, September* 3, 1908.

I HAVE to inform your Excellency that the French Chargé d'Affaires, acting on instructions from his Government, has stated unofficially that the French proposals with regard to the guarantees to be given by Mulai Hafid previous to his recognition as Sultan of Morocco were handed to the Spanish Government on the 31st ultimo.

The French Government consider that the accession of Mulai Hafid to the throne will soon be an accomplished fact, and they are ready to accept it. They are of opinion, however, that it is indispensable to ascertain first of all the result of the conflict still being waged against the Algerian forces by the great southern Chiefs and the outcome of the threatened attack on the French troops in Southern Oran. During the short delay which is necessary for the Powers to study the question of the guarantees to be exacted from Mulai Hafid in regard to their common interests, the course of events will doubtless have solved these two questions.

I am, &c.
(Signed) E. GREY.

[30707] No. 63.

Sir F. Lascelles to Sir Edward Grey.—(*Received September* 4.)

(No. 389.)
Sir, *Berlin, September* 2, 1908.

WITH reference to my despatch No. 385 of the 30th ultimo, I have the honour to report that a semi-official announcement is published in the "North German Gazette" of last night stating that the Imperial Government have instructed their Representatives at the Courts of the Powers who signed the Algeciras Act to inform the respective Governments to which they are accredited that, in view of the changed condition of affairs in Morocco, the Imperial Government consider it their duty to impress upon the Signatory Powers the fact that it is in the interests of the ultimate pacification of affairs in Morocco that Mulai Hafid should be recognized as Sultan as soon as possible.

The announcement does not meet with entirely unanimous approval in this morning's press comments. The "Berliner Tageblatt," for instance, points out that only a few days ago the Government indirectly announced their intention of awaiting France's action in regard to Moroccan matters, and the paper would like an explanation of this sudden impatience and change of policy. There seems no doubt that Mulai Hafid's recognition is desired by all the Powers, but the first step, in the Berlin paper's opinion, for his recognition should come from Mulai Hafid, who must give pledges that he is prepared to observe the terms of the Algeciras Act.

I have, &c.
(For Sir F. Lascelles),
(Signed) CRANLEY.

[30703] No. 64.

Sir F. Bertie to Sir Edward Grey.—(*Received September* 4.)

(No. 335. Confidential.)
Sir, *Paris, September* 3, 1908.

WHEN I called on the Minister for Foreign Affairs yesterday afternoon by appointment to speak to him on matters concerning Turkey, I found him in a state of irritation at the statements made in the German inspired press in regard to an immediate recognition of Mulai Hafid as Sultan of Morocco, and at an official communication made in his absence from Paris to the Political Director by the German Chargé d'Affaires, expressing the opinion of the German Government that, in the interest of the pacification of Morocco, Mulai Hafid should be recognized at once. His Excellency had, he told me, hurried back to Paris in consequence of this communication and was to receive the German Chargé d'Affaires in half-an-hour's time. A like communication had, he informed me, been made by the German Government to the other Powers, and

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he intended, he said, to express to the German Representative his surprise that the German Government should separate themselves from the other Governments by sending Dr. Vassel, the German Consul, to Fez, which could not but cause a bad effect, and by proposing that Mulai Hafid should be recognized by the Powers, without first obtaining from him guarantees as to his observance of the engagements taken by Abdul Aziz and his Government. He further intended to tell Baron Lancken that the conditions on which Mulai Hafid might be recognized had been considered by the French and Spanish Governments in consultation, and that they would shortly communicate their views to the other Powers, with whom it would rest to decide whether they would support the German proposal for an immediate and unconditional recognition of Mulai Hafid or the Franco-Spanish proposals.

M. Pichon then told me that he was convinced that this last move of the German Government was a further attempt to alienate France from her friendship and intimacy with England. It was, he did not doubt, the result of Dr. Rosen's visit to Prince Bülow. The German Representative at Tangier had lately been saying that it was so regrettable that Morocco should be the stumbling-block to good relations between France and Germany; that if the question was settled between them, the two countries could together arrange the affairs of the world, &c. The Germans hoped, by constant opposition to the policy of France, to convince her that the best thing for her to do would be to make terms with Germany and give up the understanding with England, which could do France no real good as against Germany. On this I observed that supposing the German Government succeeded in persuading France to adopt such a policy she would then be in tow of Germany, and whenever France did not act as the German Government might desire, they would give her to understand that they would come to an understanding with England to the detriment of France. It would be a repetition of the German policy anterior to the Anglo-French Agreements of 1904, namely, playing France against England and England against France. M. Pichon concurred, and said that the French Government were not going to fall into German traps. Luckily their diplomacy was very awkward and transparent.

I have, &c.
(Signed) FRANCIS BERTIE.

[30823] No. 65.

Sir M. de Bunsen to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received September 4.)

(No. 31.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *San Sebastian, September 4, 1908.*

SEÑOR ALLENDESALAZAR has given the French Chargé d'Affaires the following explanation of the action of the Spanish Ambassador at Berlin, as reported in your telegram No. 12 of yesterday:—

The Spanish Government sent a Circular to their Representatives at the principal European capitals asking them to report, as far as they were able, how the different Governments to which they were accredited viewed the subject of the recognition of Mulai Hafid. In carrying out his instructions the Spanish Ambassador at Berlin perhaps allowed the German Government to divine that his Government were anxious to recognize Mulai Hafid as soon as possible. It was never suggested that Germany should take the initiative in this matter.

M. Dæschner has reported to the French Government that he is satisfied that there was no intention on the part of the Spanish Government to break away from their understanding with France, and that all the Spanish Government wished to show was that they were not prepared to leave the study of the question entirely to France, or blindly to follow the lead of that country on all points.

M. Dæschner has not pressed the Spanish Government to cancel their instructions to their Ambassadors, these instructions having been already carried out. The French Chargé d'Affaires does not suspect Señor Allendesalazar of having acted in any way disloyally to France in this matter.

Notwithstanding the explanation given above, I propose to express to Señor Allendesalazar the hope that his Government will, in future, take no steps which might be construed as constituting—even in appearance—a departure from complete co-operation with the French Government.

[30824] No. 66.

Sir M. de Bunsen to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received September 4.)

(No. 32.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *San Sebastian, September 4, 1908.*

MY telegram No. 31 of to-day's date.

Señor Allendesalazar has informed me that his Circular to the Spanish Ambassadors was merely intended to sound the Governments Signatory of the Algeciras Act regarding the early recognition of Mulai Hafid, which, subject to conditions to be drawn up with France, Spain was inclined to advocate. The Foreign Minister said that the French Representatives no doubt also kept their Government informed of the views held by the various Powers on this question. Such information would be valuable in settling the terms of the Franco-Spanish communication to the Powers.

The Spanish Government, Señor Allendesalazar added, considered that some of the conditions contained in the French draft might endanger their general acceptance by the other Powers. They were therefore inviting the French Government to modify the text of their draft, leaving some of the points to be considered after Mulai Hafid had been recognized. The Foreign Minister said that an Agreement would doubtless soon be arrived at.

I told his Excellency that, in consequence of the action of her Representatives, Spain had created the unfortunate impression that she was acting independently of France. I urged Señor Allendesalazar to remove this impression, which, I gathered, existed in the minds of some of my colleagues. His Excellency promised to make it clear that the Spanish Government continued to co-operate closely with France. He added that the misunderstanding would be cleared up by a communication which Señor Maura was making to the press.

[30816] No. 67.

Mr. White to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received September 4.)

(No. 55.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Tangier, September 4, 1908.*

IT is expected, so the French Minister informs me, that the Ministers of Finance and Foreign Affairs will arrive in Tangier to-morrow, their object being to discuss unofficially with El Menebhi the terms upon which Abdul Aziz will retire from the contest.

[30829] No. 68.

Mr. White to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received September 5.)

(No. 214.)
Sir, *Tangier, August 26, 1908.*

RECENT events have brought Cid Hadj-el-Mehedi-el-Menebhi to the front again, and his advice and co-operation have been sought on all sides. Soon after the proclamation of Mulai Hafid the French Minister spoke to me of a certain effervescence amongst the neighbouring tribes, which caused him some disquietude, and he expressed the hope that I would allow Cid-el-Menebhi to use his great personal influence in maintaining tranquillity and order in this district. I readily assented, and requested Cid-el-Menebhi to do what he could to prevent the occurrence of any disturbances, but asked him, in any steps he might take, to use his own personal influence only, and not to let it be supposed he was acting as an official of Mulai Hafid.

Cid-el-Menebhi undertook the task with pleasure, and there can be no doubt that his influence has been very beneficial; it is largely through his instrumentality that the people here have been made to understand that no anti-Christian manifestations would be tolerated, and that the police and other institutions would be maintained as before. All the officials have been retained at their posts, and their authority has been strengthened by Cid-el-Menebhi's support.

Cid-el-Menebhi being intimately acquainted with Mulai Hafid, Kaïd-el-Glawi, Kaïd Aissa-ben-Omar, and all the leading men throughout the country, I was desirous of ascertaining his views on the present situation and on the line Mulai Hafid would

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be likely to adopt if recognized by the Powers. I accordingly called at his house this afternoon and had a long conversation with him on the subject.

I was somewhat amused on entering to find his reception rooms thronged with Moorish officials and notables, including Cid Torres and Cid Guebbas, whereas none of these men formerly dared to go to his house, where one only met Europeans, members of the various Legations, and others.

Cid el-Menebhi takes a very hopeful view of the future, and feels confident that Mulai Hafid will allow himself to be guided by good advice, and will respect all Treaty and other engagements entered into by the Sultan. He observed that both Mulai Hafid, himself, and the people with him are ignorant as to the manner of conducting the affairs of Government, especially as regards relations with foreign Powers, and that therefore the best of the Sultan's Viziers will have to be invited to serve under the new régime.

Cid Menebhi informed me that discussions had been held between the leading officials and notables, and it had been decided to send a Delegate to Fez to lay their views before Mulai Hafid. Various recommendations had been made in the form of a Memorandum, and this had been sent to Mulai Hafid by Hadj Dris Bengelun, an official bearing a high reputation, who also took with him a letter, signed by Cid Torres, Cid Guebbas, and Cid-el-Menebhi, urging Mulai Hafid to follow the advice given, which Cid Bengelun would be in a position to explain more fully verbally. The principal recommendations in the Memorandum were as follows:—

1. That no Europeans should be received unless recommended by their Legations.
2. That no European should be engaged to serve in any capacity.
3. That no Concessions of any kind should be granted.
4. That no grant of houses at any of the ports should be made.
5. That no letters should be addressed to foreign Ministers without first being submitted to the authorities at Tangier conversant with diplomatic usage.
6. That Mulai Hafid should announce to the Powers his intention to abide by and carry out the stipulations of the Act of Algeciras and all other Treaties and Conventions.
7. That Mulai Hafid should assume responsibility for all loans that have been made by the Makhzen.
8. That he should likewise undertake to discharge the private debts of the Sultan, after they have been examined and passed by the Moorish State Bank or by a Commission to be appointed.
9. That an amnesty be granted to all officials serving under the Sultan.
10. That the most generous treatment be extended to the Sultan.

With regard to the amnesty, Cid-el-Menebhi thought it possible that conditions might be made in regard to Hadj Omar Tazzi, that he should pay into the Treasury some portion of the large fortune he is believed to have amassed by improper means at the expense of the public funds.

Cid-el-Mehedi also explained that it had been suggested that the Sultan should leave the country and retire to Damascus or other place in a Moslem country, and that, after the lapse of a few months, when order is restored in Morocco and the power of the Makhzen firmly established, Mulai Hafid should send an emissary to invite him to return to Morocco and settle in any place he might select, where a liberal pension would be paid to him.

A further suggestion had been made that Cid Torres, who is now very old and infirm, should be allowed to retire and be granted a suitable pension, and that Cid Guebbas should be appointed to succeed him, having Cid Abdelkader Erzini joined with him in the office, in the same manner as Cid Guebbas has lately been associated with Cid Torres. Cid Erzini is a Tetuan noble, who has hitherto been unwilling to accept office. He is well off and head of a good old family, and bears a very high reputation. The appointment would be an excellent one, if he could be induced to accept office. Mulai Hafid has been recommended to appoint Cid-ben-Sliman as Vizier for Foreign Affairs, and also to retain the services of Cid Bukili, who succeeded Ben Sliman as Foreign Minister when the latter became Grand Vizier.

The advice to be given to Mulai Hafid by Cid Dris Bengelun is undoubtedly sound. It remains, however, to be seen whether he will be willing to act upon it. Cid-el-Menebhi is quite confident that he will do so, and it is possible that, in his desire to win the approbation of the European Powers, he may do so. Cid-el-Menebhi

is, however, of a most sanguine temperament, and it is quite possible that he may be mistaken in his views as to the line of policy Mulai Hafid will follow.

Cid-el-Menebhi remarked that in no circumstances would he be willing himself to accept office again. He prefers to retain his independent position under British protection, free from the anxieties and uncertainty of office under a Moorish Sovereign. He, however, hopes under the new régime to obtain the restoration of his property, or at any rate the settlement of his claims.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HERBERT E. WHITE.

[30830] No. 69.

Mr. White to Sir Edward Grey.—(*Received September* 5.)

(No 215.)
Sir, *Tangier, August* 27, 1908.

WITH reference to my despatch No. 203 of the 15th instant, I have the honour to report that Hadj Taher Mikwar has informed Mr. Consul Macleod, that among the Concessions obtained by Mr. Ashmead Bartlett is one in regard to mines to be worked in partnership with the Makhzen, British subjects only being employed. It appears from what Hadj Taher Mikwar was told by the Secretary of the Grand Vizier that a contract has been made to which effect is to be given in two years' time, when it is anticipated that tranquillity and order will have been established in Morocco. The contract is to remain in force for twenty years from that date, and must not be transferred to any person or Company of other nationality. There are said to be nineteen clauses in the contract, but the only other stipulations reported by Hadj Taher Mikwar are the following:—"The Makhzen will not dispute with the Powers thereupon, should they object to this business," which I presume means that should objections be raised by the Powers the contract will be cancelled. "The Company will advance 30,000*l.* to the Makhzen on the security of Makhzen properties, until work commences on the mines, when the security will be returned."

I have, &c.
(Signed) HERBERT E. WHITE.

[30831] No. 70.

Mr. White to Sir Edward Grey.—(*Received September* 5.)

(No. 216.)
Sir, *Tangier, August* 27, 1908.

WITH reference to my despatch No. 210 of the 22nd instant, I have the honour to report that Mulai Hafid has now three European doctors in his service, viz., a German renegade, Dr. Holtzmann, who used to attend him when he was Viceroy in Marakesh, and has been with him ever since; Dr. Wilkinson and Dr. Beleuguer, a Spanish military doctor, formerly officially attached to the Spanish Consulate at Fez. Dr. Beleuguer went to Fez at the same time as Mr. Consular Agent Carleton, and subsequently came to Tangier, returning to Fez a short time since. It was reported that he came to Tangier to consult the Spanish Legation, and was charged with some sort of Mission on his return to Fez. The Spanish Chargé d'Affaires, however, assures me that the Legation is in no way connected with his return to Fez, that they had done all they could to dissuade him from going, but were unable to prevent him from going in a private capacity.

An application was made by a Moorish official to Hadj Taher Miquar to draw up contracts between Mulai Hafid and Dr. Wilkinson, granting such terms as the latter might request, and also between Mulai Hafid and Dr. Beleuguer, but Hadj Taher replied that he was unable to do so, having received no instructions from this Legation in regard to Dr. Wilkinson, and having nothing to do with the Spanish doctor.

Mulai Hafid appears to be as anxious to surround himself with Europeans as the Sultan was.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HERBERT E. WHITE.

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[30832] No. 71.

Mr. White to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received September 5.)

(No. 217.)

Sir, *Tangier, August* 28, 1908.

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith translation of a letter addressed to the doyen of the Corps Diplomatique by Cid Torres and Cid Guebbas, informing him of the proclamation of Mulai Hafid, and requesting him to bring it to the knowledge of his colleagues.

Tangier itself and the country in its immediate vicinity remains quite quiet, and there appears to be no danger of any troubles, though it is said that some of the neighbouring tribes are somewhat unsettled. Cid-el-Menebhi, with the son of Cid Guebbas, has gone out to meet the Commander of the Hafidist forces, and to arrange for measures being taken to prevent the possibility of any disturbances.

Mulai Hafid has now been proclaimed also at Arzila, Laraiche, Rabat, Salli, Azimoor, and Mazagan, and, thanks to the presence of ships of war and the example of Casa Blanca, no disturbances have occurred at any of them, though some anxiety exists as to Rabat, where there appears to be some excitement. The French Admiral has dispatched a second ship to that place to overawe the turbulent element.

At Laraiche a disturbance was avoided by the firmness of the French Vice-Consul. An attempt was made to arrest the loyal Governor, who had taken refuge at the Vice-Consulate. The Vice-Consul opposed the arrest, and himself accompanied him to the water-port, and thence on board an English steamer in the harbour, notwithstanding the efforts of the authorities to prevent their embarking. The Governor was accompanied by a few of his men, who were armed, and had the authorities attempted to effect the arrest by force an affray would have arisen that might have given rise to general disturbances.

The authorities applied to the British Vice-Consul to be allowed to arrest the Governor on board the British ship, but he naturally refused.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HERBERT E. WHITE.

Inclosure in No. 71.

Cid Mohammed Torres and Cid Mohammed Guebbas to the Doyen of the Diplomatic Corps.

(Traduction.)
(Compliments.)

VOTRE Excellence a appris la proclamation qui a eu lieu à Tanger et aux environs du Sultan l'illustre Muley Abd-el-Hafid, et l'accueil enthousiaste que lui a fait le peuple en rejouissance. Nous ajoutons cette lettre pour vous informer que les employés du Maghzen exerceront comme auparavant leurs fonctions en attendant que les ordres du Sultan arrivent avec ses décisions. Nous vous prions d'en prendre note et de la communiquer aux honorables Représentants des Puissances pour leur information. Nous faisons des vœux, en terminant, que la souveraineté de notre Maître le Sultan soit l'inauguration de la tranquillité, le repos, et le bonheur du public ainsi que sa sécurité. Amen. Restez en paix.

Le 29 *Rajab*, 1326
(*correspondant au* 27 *Août*, 1908).

(Signé) MOHAMMED-BEN-LARBI TORRES.
MOHAMMED-BEN-MOHAMMED GUEBBAS.

[30833] No. 72.

Mr. White to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received September 5.)

(No. 218.)

Sir, *Tangier, August* 29, 1908.

ALTHOUGH some time has now passed since the rout of the Sultan's army and His Majesty's flight to Settat, and Mulai Hafid has been proclaimed at all the ports except Casa Blanca, Saffi, and Mogador, the situation is still far from clear, and

His Majesty has taken no determination as to the course he will follow. Much depends upon the fortune of Kaïd M'tougi, of whom there is no reliable news, though reports are current that he has entered, or is on the point of entering, Marakesh. The Sheraghna tribes have sent a deputation to the Sultan inviting him to return, and undertaking to conduct him to Marakesh, but His Majesty is said to have given an evasive reply, preferring to await definite news from Kaïd M'tougi.

In the meantime, the remains of the defeated army have been straggling back to Showia in a miserable condition, the French troops disarming the soldiers who have succeeded in returning with their arms.

Should the Sultan decide to take the field again he will have to leave Showia, as the French gave him clearly to understand before he left Rabat that, should he meet with any disaster, he would not be permitted to use the zone under French occupation as a base for equipping a fresh force.

It seems hardly likely that the Sultan can now recover his position, and much as one pities His Majesty, who has been a victim to his good intentions and to his desire to follow the advice of the Powers, one cannot but admit that it would be more in the interests of this country, as well as of the Powers, that he should now retire from the contest and thus facilitate a general settlement. With all the ports in the hands of Mulai Hafid—for there can be no doubt that Saffi and Mogador will soon proclaim him—the Sultan will find himself without funds, and even were M'tougi to take Marakesh and His Majesty able to reach that place in safety, his chances of ultimate success would be small.

I inquired of the French Minister what it was proposed to do with the Sultan should His Majesty decide not to continue the struggle. M. Regnault was of opinion that it was desirable that His Majesty should leave the country for a time at any rate, but that he should not go to France, England, or any European country, nor even to Algeria. He considered Damascus or other parts of Syria as suitable place of residence. M. Regnault did not appear to consider it desirable that the Sultan should actually abdicate in favour of Mulai Hafid, and I gathered that he did not wish to make it impossible to bring His Majesty forward again should it at some future time be found expedient to do so. His ideas seemed rather that the Sultan should merely abandon the struggle and leave the country. It seems to me, however, that it would be difficult to follow this course, for some settlement will presumably have to be come to for providing His Majesty with suitable means of existence in his retirement, and Mulai Hafid would hardly be inclined to come to any terms in this respect if the Sultan could be regarded as a possible future rival.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HERBERT E. WHITE.

[30834] No. 73.

Mr. White to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received September 5.)

(No. 219.)

Sir, *Tangier, August* 30, 1908.

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith an interesting narrative of the rout of the Sultan's army on the 19th instant, and the subsequent flight to Showia, which I have received from Dr. Verdon through the Consulate at Casa Blanca.

The Sultan appears to have shown conspicuous bravery; though specially picked out to be fired at, His Majesty had a marvellous escape, his clothes having been riddled with bullets. Dr. Verdon and Sergeant Balding also had narrow escapes, the Showia tribesmen having joined in the attack on the fleeing troops and showed special hostility towards the Christians. It is to be hoped that the French will inflict an exemplary punishment upon these people.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HERBERT E. WHITE.

Inclosure in No. 73.

Dr. Verdon's Account of the Fight of August 19, 1908.

ON the 19th the Sultan led out 2,000 tribesmen and about 2,000 soldiers and Makhzenies mounted on horses and mules, with 3 field guns and 3 Maxims, to attack

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the camp of Glawi and Sektani, situated at the foot of the hills in the angle between Sraghna and Zimran. We left our camp at 3 A.M. and marched four hours. When we came in sight of their camp, which appeared to be quite a small one, with olive groves on either side, the Showia, Sraghna, Beni Miskin, and Tedla tribes with some Zimran were sent forward on each flank. The guns in charge of the French officers opened fire at a distance of 3,000 to 4,000 yards from the enemy, but all the shells fell short. Through the glasses I could see great numbers of mounted men pouring out from the olive-trees on either side, and it was evident at once that the small number of their tents was a mere decoy on the part of the enemy to mislead us as to their numbers. The Showia and Tedla contingents at once fell back and dashed past us (that is to say, the the main force with the Sultan), and as they fled they poured in a heavy fire, their bullets striking many of our people and whistling round our heads on every side. This caused an absolute panic among our people. I was with Sergeant Balding, who was in charge of the Maxims; he tried to place his guns, but the men with the cartridge mules all bolted. I joined the party surrounding the Sultan, which included Si Abdelkerim-ben-Sliman (the Grand Vizier), Si Bouhili, Mokri, Si Mohamed Abdelwahid (?), who had been shot in the leg. The Sultan remained while all the soldiers fled; he did his utmost to rally them. I saw Abd-el-Aziz waving his arms and crying to his men to stop and fight, and he seized a gun from one of his people and fired repeatedly at the enemy. It was of no use, every one was fleeing, a regular *sauve qui peut*. We galloped back to the camp in two hours and there we found everything in confusion. The Showia were pillaging the cartridges and were firing at every one, and there was a regular combat between them and the Sraghna in the middle of the camp. The Sultan sent for me and Dr. Fournial (?) to attend the Minister of War, and His Majesty accompanied us himself and spoke kindly to his wounded Minister. I learnt that His Majesty had no less than thirty-six holes in his clothing from bullets, and that some of Glawi's people followed his party and shot only at the Sultan. His brother, Mulai Yusuf, riding beside him, was wounded, but His Majesty escaped without a scratch.

Dr. Fournial and I, issuing from the tent of the Minister of War, met a regular hail of bullets from all sides. I made a dash for my tent, and had fresh horses saddled. I saw the Sultan calmly riding about the camp, giving orders and trying to get the men together, but without avail. The confusion became worse, and the firing more heavy; the air was thick with bullets flying round. About an hour after our return to the camp one of my men came running to me, crying out that I must mount and go, otherwise my horse would be taken by the fleeing soldiers. I found that the Sultan and his party, including the ladies of the harem, had gone. I sent two mounted men with a spare horse to bring Sergeant Balding, who was still working a Maxim, stuffed my pockets with a few valuables, told my men to mount my spare mules and horses, and bolted over the River Tessota (? Tessaout), the bullets splashing up the water in an unpleasant manner. We got out of fire and recrossed the river, and caught up Commandant Farriau and some of his officers. The Commandant put us all under the charge of some Showia Kaïds, who promised to take us safely to the French troops; it will be seen later how they kept their promise. Captain Mareshal, Sergeant Balding, and Lieutenant Bel Kaïd remained for some time working the guns, and did much to hinder the attack, and so gave the Sultan time to escape. Balding, I learnt later, missed our men and went to our tents, and found them full of tribesmen pillaging, and the animals all gone. He crossed the river on foot in his top-boots, and three men were shot down by his side and washed away. A friendly slave gave him a lift behind him, and, galloping hard, they caught up the Sultan's party; and His Majesty, always thoughtful of others in the midst of his troubles, sent him a spare horse to mount. Balding, and also the two French officers, must have had a narrow escape, and showed great pluck in sticking to the guns in the way they did.

Our party, consisting of the French officers, the Showia, and several hundred refugees, rode at a good pace for about ten hours without a halt, and at night-time we reached the river (Um-er-Rebia). We passed east of Kelaa, and crossed the river into Beni Miskin, near Tedla country. As usual, the Showia behaved shamefully, shooting at the Sraghna people and stealing animals from their villages. We rested two hours on the north bank of the Um-er-Rebia till the moon rose. Captain Mareshal produced a bottle of champagne, which he looted from the French mess as he came away, and we enjoyed it greatly. We heard constant shooting on the far bank of the river; the Sraghna, enraged by the conduct of the Showia, were shooting at the fleeing mehalla.

At about 11 o'clock we started to ride through the Beni Miskin, the Showia

sending out their people in front and on the flanks to protect us. The Beni Miskin were expecting us, and on all sides we were received by shots. We would ride for half-an-hour quietly, and then suddenly a volley would be fired at us from quite near, and the whole party would stampede. My men told me that the Showia escort themselves were firing at us, and that it was their wish to kill us Europeans, but that the Beni Miskin refused to allow them to do so in their country. Till daybreak we rode about in this apparently aimless fashion, at times walking, and at others galloping hard to avoid the bullets. At about 8 o'clock we approached the Showia country, Sidi Douid (Oolad Sidi-ben-Daoud), and on the borders of Beni Miskin the position became even more grave, as men, and even women too, came out from the villages and deliberately took pot-shots at our party; fortunately, their shooting was atrocious, and I saw no one hit. Our Showia guardians, who were about 100 strong, would not fire a shot or make any effort to defend us.

At length we reached the Showia country and entered a big village; our party broke up, and I went to a douar to get some water. The shooting recommenced, and we began to realize that the Showia, the "promised land" for us, was to be our undoing. The Showia fired upon us from every hill and village; they cut off and pillaged completely any stragglers. My men were seized and the horses and guns taken. I picked up a lad in my service in the saddle behind me, and spurred up my poor old horse for a last final effort. My horse began to fail, and I saw Si Maisi, an Algerian Lieutenant, ride over to a Showia Chief who with his people were following us, so I went too, and said, "I am a Frenchman and demand protection." The brute cried out, "You are a dog of a Christian; get away; I am going to fire at you." The servant boy slipped off, and I dashed away; the man fired, but I think only to frighten me, as I did not hear the bullet pass.

We came to a douar surrounded by a wall, and the people came out and told us the Sultan was near, and we must go into the douar; about 200 of our people did so. I was sure it was a hoax and rode on, when a crowd of Showia, all armed men, rushed at me. One man, a certain Boazza, rode up shouting, "I am a French subject and your friend, and will help you." I believed him and rode beside him, whereupon he dealt me a heavy blow in the small of my back, knocking me out of the saddle. Then they all went for me, tearing off my turban and all my clothes but my vest and trousers. They cried, "El jehad," "El jehad," "kill the Christian." Looking round, I saw a better class Moor mounted on a horse and armed with his rifle, looking on. I made a dash for him, placed my hand on his horse, and said, "I claim your protection." At the same time I added, "I will give you 200 dollars to get me out of this safely." I know the brutes will do anything for money, but I was surprised he did not want to bargain. He took my hand and told me to go with him. Two men with sabres pursued me and also Bo Azza, who had my horse, but my man put up his gun at them, and Boazza and his party went after easier game.

I had to walk 4 miles in the heat with a pain in the back, a deadly thirst, and little clothing on me. Near the douar my man left me in charge of two young fellows. I did not like this arrangement, as they referred to me as the "son of a bad man," and promised me a bad time at the hands of the women in the douar. In the douar I met by good luck an employé of Mr. Lamb, merchant, of Casa Blanca, who drove all the people off and took me into a hut and gave me the best drink I ever had. Later, all the Notables of the village came and held council as to what to do with me. I told them that I had the news that the French troops would leave Settatt that night for their district, and that if anything happened to the French, myself, or any other European, the French troops would bombard every village in the country, and kill every soul in the place. I promised that if they treated me well I would stand up for them, and that the French General would spare them for having saved me. They left, and in short time came back, took off my boots, wished my feet, gave me milk and food and cigarettes, and did all they could for me.

Early in the morning the French troops did come, as I was sure they would, and I rode to the camp (my friends this time going on foot).

The Commander Brulard and all the officers received me with the greatest kindness and hospitality.

Shortly after my arrival Sergeant Balding rode in spick and span; he got through with Kaïd ————. The people of Beni Miskin showed anxiety to take off his head, and discussed the matter seriously with Kaïd-ben-Douid (? Kaïd of Oolad Sidi-ben-Daoud, El Kebir-uld-el-Kurda.—E. G. L.), in the presence of Balding, but the Kaïd persuaded them to allow him to pass.

I was glad to learn from the French that all their instructors got through safely;

like myself, they and their men were pillaged of practically everything. What we did not lose in the sack of the camp by Glawi's people we lost at the hands of the Showia. It is reported that one instructor was killed—a Turk, Hadji Mustafa.

The Sultan has often been called a coward because he stayed so long at Rabat. He knew his people better than those who accused him, and he predicted that he would meet with such a reverse. He did his utmost, and if all had shown such rare courage as Abd-el-Aziz did at the combat we should have made a good fight of it. All through the Showia were our enemies; they betrayed us as they did Houshta Baghdadi in Showia. The members of our so-called escort openly rejoiced at our defeat. The night I spent at the douar I learnt much of the sentiment of the Showia. They told me they had recently letters from Hafid, calling upon them to help him, and that he was going to make a "jehad" shortly and to drive out the French from Showia. When I told them I was a doctor they said they would send me to Hafid to save him. They are all strongly pro-Hafid and pro-German, and they declare that when Hafid is Sultan the Germans will aid him and oblige the French to evacuate Showia.

Our mehalla lost all its guns [? and] maxims, but Captain Mareshal and Sergeant Balding removed many of the breech-blocks and threw them into the river. In addition, the tents and camp equipment were lost. About half the soldiers are here, but many are still coming in, and I do not think the loss of lives will be so great as one would expect.

Glawi's people are well armed and shoot well. They have a number of magazine rifles (Lee-Enfield) captured at Fez.

The above account may appear exaggerated, but it is the truth. The experiences we went through in those twenty-two hours, in which, by the way, we must have ridden 100 miles, were as novel as they were trying.

(Signed) EGBERT S. VERDON, M.D.

Settatt, August 24, 1908.

[30694] No. 74.

*Sir Edward Grey to Sir F. Lascelles.**

(No. 82.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Foreign Office, September* 5, 1908.

RECOGNITION of Mulai Hafid.

His Majesty's Government are in complete accord with the French and Spanish Governments in holding that the recognition of the new Sultan should be made dependent upon previously obtaining from him satisfactory pledges that he will adhere to the Algeciras Act and other obligations contracted by his country. Unless these guarantees are obtained the present state of confusion may go from bad to worse. His Majesty's Government consider that the interests of the Signatory Powers of the Algeciras Act urgently demand that they should be unanimous on this point, and they await the proposals which the French and Spanish Governments are now drawing up.

If the matter is raised, you should state the above to be the view held by His Majesty's Government.

[30916] No. 75.

Sir M. de Bunsen to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received September 6.)

(No. 33.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *San Sebastian, September* 6, 1908.

MOROCCO. My telegram No. 32 of the 4th instant.

The French Chargé d'Affaires considers that the modifications proposed by the Spanish Government in the note to the Powers are reasonable. I hear that the revised text was returned to Paris yesterday.

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* Also to Sir E. Goschen, No. 72 (Telegraphic); Sir A. Nicolson, No. 349 (Telegraphic); Mr. Howard, No. 101 (Telegraphic); Mr. Rennie, No. 14 (Telegraphic); Sir A. Hardinge, No. 5 (Telegraphic); Sir H. Howard, No. 3 (Telegraphic); Mr. Dering, No. 20 (Telegraphic); and Mr. Erskine, No. 77 (Telegraphic), September 5, 1908.

[30936] No. 76.

Sir F. Lascelles to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received September 7.)

(No. 394. Confidential.)
Sir, *Berlin, September* 3, 1908.

HAVING returned to Berlin from Homburg yesterday evening, I called on Herr Stemrich by appointment at noon to-day. After an allusion to the recent meeting of the King and the Emperor at Friedrichshof, which had highly gratified His Imperial Majesty, who had telegraphed an account of the conversation he had had both with His Majesty and Sir Charles Hardinge, the conversation turned upon the situation in Morocco, and the suggestion which had been made by the German Government that the Powers should consider the advisability of recognizing Mulai Hafid as Sultan. For a considerable time past, the German Government had looked upon him as the *de facto* Ruler of the country, and had been urged by the German residents in Morocco to acknowledge him as such. There had been some question in the newspapers as to the conditions which the Powers might attach to their recognition. These conditions were of two sorts: (1) general, such as would be covered by an assurance given by Mulai Hafid that he would acknowledge the binding force of the Algeciras Act and previous Treaties; (2) particular, as it was conceivable that some of the Powers might think it necessary to obtain more definite assurances from the new Sultan. Herr Stemrich believed that the majority of the Powers would be satisfied with the conditions of the first category, and it was the object of ascertaining their views on this subject that the German Representatives in foreign countries had been instructed to approach the Governments to which they were accredited. Herr Stemrich believed that the recognition of Mulai Hafid would be of great assistance to him in restoring order in Morocco.

Herr Stemrich said that the French press had been somewhat excited by the instructions which had been given to the German Consul at Fez to return to his post. He could not understand the objections which had been raised. Herr Vassel had no diplomatic character, and his presence at or absence from Fez would have no political importance. He would merely look after German interests, which had suffered in consequence of his absence from his post.

I have, &c.
(Signed) FRANK C. LASCELLES.

[30985] No. 77.

Sir A. Hardinge to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received September 7.)

(No. 109. Confidential.)
Sir, *Brussels, September* 6, 1908

I HAVE had the honour to receive your telegram No. 5 of yesterday's date, respecting Morocco, and have noted its contents for my guidance.

The policy of the Belgian Government with regard to the Moorish question is one of careful neutrality, and I should think it in the highest degree improbable that they would recognize Mulai Hafid before the Powers most directly interested have done so. I do not, however, anticipate that M. Davignon, who is temporarily absent from Brussels, will give me an opportunity of expressing your position, and unless you specially instruct me to invite one I do not propose to broach the subject with him.

The Belgian press, irrespective of party, criticizes as clumsy ("maladroit") and calculated to complicate the Moorish situation the precipitate intervention of Germany on behalf of Mulai Hafid, and the dispatch of Dr. Vassel to Fez.

I have, &c.
(Signed) ARTHUR H. HARDINGE.

[30762] No. 78.

Sir Edward Grey to Sir F. Lascelles.

(No. 243.)

Sir, *Foreign Office, September* 7, 1908.

THE German Chargé d'Affaires called at the Foreign Office on the 1st instant, and informed Sir F. Campbell that he had been instructed to represent that, in the opinion of the German Government, the time had now come when the Powers signatory of the Act of Algeciras should agree to recognize Mulai Hafid as Sultan in order to put an end to the state of anarchy and disorder which had so long prevailed in Morocco. He was also instructed to say that the return of the German Consul to Fez was connected with some long outstanding claims and had no political significance.

Sir F. Campbell inquired whether the German Government proposed to make any conditions with regard to Mulai Hafid's recognition. Herr von Stumm replied that his instructions were silent on the point, but he thought not.

Sir F. Campbell observed that His Majesty's Government had some reason to believe that the French Government contemplated addressing the Powers on the subject of Mulai Hafid's recognition, and if this were so His Majesty's Government would probably wish, before answering the German Government, to know whether the French Government suggested attaching any conditions to the recognition.

I am, &c.
(Signed) E. GREY.

[31344] No. 79.

Sir M. de Bunsen to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received September 8.)

(No. 34.)

(Telegraphic.) P. *San Sebastian, September* 8, 1908.

MOROCCO. My telegram No. 33 of the 6th instant.

I am informed by Señor Allendesalazar that there is a hitch in the preparation of the Franco-Spanish note to the Powers, owing to the French Government insisting on holding Mulai Hafid responsible for the private loans contracted by his brother. The Minister for Foreign Affairs is of opinion that, if France adheres to this condition, the acceptance of the Franco-Spanish note by all the Powers would be prejudiced.

[31453] No. 80.

Sir F. Bertie to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received September 10.)

(No. 339.)

Sir, *Paris, September* 8, 1908.

IN the course of conversation this morning Mr. Lister availed himself of the opportunity given by a remark of M. Geoffray's to the effect that for the moment Moroccan affairs tended to exclude all others, to inquire whether M. Pichon had been satisfied with the result of his long conversation yesterday afternoon with the Spanish Ambassador. M. Geoffray replied in the affirmative. The terms of the joint note, he said, might now be considered as settled, for M. Pichon and the Marquis del Muni were agreed, and the latter had let it be understood that his Government had given him a free hand in the matter. Certain small modifications had been introduced into the text of the French note (already communicated to you by M. Cambon), but they were changes "de rédaction" rather than "de fond." The French Government had wished that the Shereefian Proclamation announcing Mulai Hafid's adhesion to the Act of Algeciras, and disclaiming all hostility to foreigners, should be read in the mosques, but the Ambassador had whined so much ("a tant pleurniché") that M. Pichon, contrary to M. Geoffray's wish, had yielded on that point, and now the Proclamation was merely to be published.

The final text of the note had been sent down to San Sebastian last night, and M. Geoffray hoped that it might be communicated to you to-morrow.

Alluding to the recent action of Germany, he said that he could only attribute it to the absence of "direction" in German foreign policy. His view is that the idea of the German proposal to recognize Mulai Hafid emanated from Dr. Rosen and Prince Bülow at Norderney, and he considers it more than likely that neither of them knew

that only two days before the German Chargé d'Affaires in Paris had been told that the French and Spanish Governments were drawing up a note setting forth the conditions on which the Powers should agree to such recognition. It was M. Geoffray who subsequently received Baron Lancken, and he told me that he made him feel that his reception was the reverse of cordial.

I have, &c.
(For the Ambassador),
(Signed) REGINALD LISTER.

[29451] No. 81.

Sir Edward Grey to Sir F. Bertie.

(No. 436.)

Sir, *Foreign Office, September* 10, 1908.

I TRANSMIT to your Excellency herewith translations of two letters which Mulai Hafid has addressed to the King and to myself in regard to affairs in Morocco.*

I request that your Excellency will communicate these letters to the French Government, and will inform them that His Majesty will be advised to defer sending any answer to Mulai Hafid until the question of his recognition by the Powers is definitely settled.

I am, &c.
(Signed) E. GREY.

[31558] No. 82.

Sir M. de Bunsen to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received September 11.)

(No. 122.)

Sir, *San Sebastian, September* 7, 1908.

THE terms on which Mulai Hafid shall be recognized as Sultan of Morocco have been during the last week the subject of continued discussion between the French and Spanish Governments. Spain has long been convinced that the star of Mulai Hafid was in the ascendent, and many weeks before the defeat of Abdul Aziz on the 19th August she raised at Paris the question of Mulai Hafid's eventual recognition, and urged the expediency of an early agreement with France as to the conditions to be attached to it. Rightly or wrongly, she suspected the French of supplying Abdul Aziz secretly with the means of prolonging a hopeless struggle. She determined to discourage this tendency, and pressed for the abandonment of what she thought was already a lost cause. Her chief motive was perhaps her continued dislike of the existing situation at Casa Blanca, and her hope that the inauguration of a new reign might lead to arrangements being made which would enable France to withdraw from the occupation of that region. The French Government not unnaturally declined to follow a Spanish lead in the matter. So long as Abdul Aziz remained in the field they saw no necessity to prepare for a possible turning of the tables. But since the headlong flight of Abdul Aziz into the French camp they have admitted that the new order of things will have to be faced. The only question remaining was as to the conditions to be imposed upon the new Sultan.

A French draft, embodying the French proposals on these points in the form of a note for communication to the Powers, reached San Sebastian a few days ago. The French Chargé d'Affaires was good enough to allow me to glance at it. It was a rather lengthy document, including among the conditions not only full recognition by Mulai Hafid of the Algeciras Act and of subsequent Agreements founded upon it, but also acceptance of liability for the Casa Blanca indemnities, for adequate provision in favour of Abdul Aziz, and for maintenance of safe communication between Fez, Tangier, Meknes, and Marrakesh. It further reserved to the countries concerned the right to approach the new Sultan separately and independently with a view to repayment of the cost of military operations in Morocco. It required also that Mulai Hafid should afford proof of his being in a position to maintain order, and to restrain the hostile movement against the French on the eastern frontier. Subject to receiving satisfactory assurances on these points, France and Spain recommended, in the proposed note, that Mulai Hafid should be acknowledged as Sultan.

* See No. 39.

Señor Allendesalazar, Minister for Foreign Affairs, had been absent from San Sebastian for about a fortnight. I saw him immediately after his return, and was glad to be enabled to report, in my telegram No. 28 of the 1st instant, that his Excellency had informed me that the conditions of recognition were practically settled between the French and Spanish Governments. His Excellency was, I think, a little premature in his statement, which agreed also with the French Chargé d'Affaires' first impressions. In point of fact there were still differences of opinion requiring more than a mere revision of the text to bring the two Governments into agreement. Señor Allendesalazar had admitted to me that he did not like the paragraph relating to collection of a kind of war indemnity.

It has, I believe, since been agreed that the conditions as to a pension for Abdul Aziz, maintenance of communications in the interior, proof to be afforded by the Sultan of ability to fulfil his engagements, and as to restraint to be imposed on the more than semi-independent tribes along the eastern frontier should be reserved for subsequent negotiation between the countries specially concerned and the new Sultan, and that they should not be submitted to the Powers as a necessary preliminary to recognition. In other words, the note to the Powers has been put by Spain into a form which would enable all the Powers to accept it without discussion. The object of a speedy recognition would thus be facilitated.

The new draft left San Sebastian for Paris, as I am informed, on the 5th instant. M. Daeschner, the French Chargé d'Affaires, considers that the modifications made in it are quite reasonable, and that his Government is likely to accept them. The note would, in that case, be issued to the Algeciras Powers within a few days.

The anxiety of Spain to hasten recognition led her to take an imprudent step. Hoping to obtain from all quarters an expression of opinion agreeing with their own, the Spanish Government instructed their Representatives abroad to gather any information they could as to the views held on the question in the various capitals. The instruction seems to have been carried out by the Spanish Ambassador in Berlin in a manner which made it appear that Spain was taking the initiative in urging the Powers to recognize Mulai Hafid. My telegrams Nos. 31 and 32, both of the 4th instant, have reported the Foreign Minister's explanations. His Excellency declared that he had only wished to elicit the opinions of other Governments to serve as a guide in concerting with France the terms of the note to the Powers. He disclaimed any idea of separating himself from the French or of encouraging Germany to take independent action. As, however, the impression was manifestly produced that Spain was taking an independent line of action, I have not failed, as stated in the last mentioned telegram, to represent to Señor Allendesalazar the great importance of avoiding, at this juncture, any semblance of divergent action as between the two countries mainly concerned.

His Excellency promised to clear up any misapprehension that might still exist on this point. The Prime Minister was giving assurances to newspaper correspondents which could not fail to destroy the illusion that Spain was taking an independent initiative.

Señor Allendesalazar went on to explain the importance he attached to cutting down considerably the original French text of the proposed note. He did not doubt that France would acquiesce in the eliminations which he was suggesting, and that the result would be a communication to the Powers in which the latter could acquiesce without wasting time over further discussions.

The action of Germany in proclaiming her attitude as regards the recognition of Mulai Hafid without waiting for the result of the conferences which she knew were proceeding between France and Spain has not caused in Spain the irritation which is so apparent in the press of all the principal countries outside Germany, and even in some of the German newspapers.

The reason, no doubt, is that the German view of the situation is more to the liking of Spain than the French view. Like Germany, Spain has chafed under the long hesitation of France to give up Abdul Aziz. Like Germany, she has from the first severely criticized the chain of events at Casa Blanca—the first landing of a small French detachment before the reinforcements had reached the port, the hasty bombardment on the initiative apparently, of a French naval officer of subordinate rank, the dispatch of the French punitive force, which has grown into the dimensions of a large army of occupation holding the country far into the interior. The Spanish army has most unwillingly acquiesced in the position assigned to the small Spanish military detachment at Casa Blanca. In short, as I have often had occasion to point out, the policy of joint action with France is very reluctantly accepted only as a

[31741] No. 84*.

Mr. White to Sir Edward Grey.—(*Received September* 13.)

(No. 57.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Tangier, September* 13, 1908.

THE doyen of the Diplomatic Body has received a letter from Mulai Hafid requesting that the Powers should recognize him as Sultan, now that all the ports have proclaimed him. He undertakes to abide by the General Act of Algeciras and also the Treaties made by his predecessors, and states that his recognition by the Powers would enable him to enter into relations with the foreign Representatives with a view to giving effect to the provisions of the Algeciras Act.

disagreeable political necessity. German condemnation of French proceedings in Morocco finds, therefore, a certain echo in Spain, and it explains, I think, the remark made to me yesterday by my German colleague, M. de Radowitz, that he has nothing but praise for the prudent handling by Spain of the Morocco question, and that, on his return to Spain a few days ago to deliver his letters of recall, he found Señor Allendesalazar in a very sensible frame of mind.

It is of course an object of German policy to detect and expose, if she can, any signs of weakening of the Spanish understanding with France and England. I do not believe, nor does my French colleague believe, that any such weakening is taking place; but it is no doubt a fact that there are many points on which Spain agrees with German criticism of French action in Morocco. This, however, does not prevent the Spanish Government, as I am repeatedly assured by the Foreign Minister, from pursuing their adopted policy of co-operation with France on the lines of the General Act of Algeciras, while keeping their eyes constantly fixed on their secret Convention with France, by which their claims to preponderance along the northern coast of Morocco would seem to be recognized.

M. de Radowitz has returned to Spain in a highly irritable frame of mind. To my remark that it was not quite easy to understand the initiative sought to be taken by the German Government at a moment when no one disputed Mulai Hafid's claims to speedy recognition, and when Spain and France were working together to that end, he said that Germany's stock of patience was at an end, that she could no longer tolerate the interruption of her trade with Morocco, and that the policy of France in that country was very offensive to Germany. His present language contrasts forcibly with that which he has been holding in Madrid till a few months ago, to the effect, namely, that Germany was tired of the Morocco question, and that the French occupation of Ujda left her entirely cold. He is now in a very aggressive mood, reflecting, possibly, the state of feeling in Germany when he left that country only a few days ago.

I have, &c.
(Signed) MAURICE DE BUNSEN.

[31560] No. 83.

Mr. Dering to Sir Edward Grey.—(*Received September* 11.)

(No. 118.)

Sir, *Stockholm, September* 8, 1908.

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your telegram No. 20 of the 5th instant, in regard to the suggestion made as to the advisability of recognizing Mulai Hafid in Morocco. The Swedish Minister for Foreign Affairs is still absent, but I took an opportunity to-day, when at the Foreign Office, of informing the Secretary-General of the views of His Majesty's Government in this matter, as expressed in your telegram, laying stress on their opinion that unanimity should exist amongst all the Powers signatory to the Algeciras Act.

Baron Ramel said that this was precisely the view of the Swedish Government, who had replied to the German suggestion that they saw no objection to the recognition of Mulai Hafid when all the other Signatory Powers had agreed to do likewise. Baron Ramel said that he had not yet seen the Franco-Spanish proposals, but was glad to note that friction between France and Germany in regard to Moroccan affairs seemed to be disappearing.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HERBERT G. DERING.

[31739] No. 84.

Sir M. de Bunsen to Sir Edward Grey.—(*Received September* 12.)

(No. 35.)

(Telegraphic.) P. *San Sebastian, September* 12, 1908.

MOROCCO. My telegram No. 34 of the 8th instant.

I am informed that the joint note will probably be presented in the various capitals early next week, the Spanish Government having accepted a formula proposed in Paris touching the examination and settlement of Abd-el-Aziz's private debts.

[31834] No. 85.

Mr. White to Sir Edward Grey.—(*Received September* 14.)

(No. 220.) *Tangier, September* 4, 1908.

Sir,

MUCH comment has been caused at Tangier by the sudden departure for Fez of Dr. Vassel, the German Consul at that place, the more so on account of the secrecy with which the preparations for his journey were made and the silence maintained as to his intentions—in fact, only two or three hours before his departure he accepted an invitation to dine at Tangier two days later.

The German Minister has stated that no political significance should be attached to Dr. Vassel's return to Fez, and that his object is merely to effect a settlement of various questions, claims, &c. The reason assigned by Baron von Wangenheim for the secrecy maintained on the subject was that it was desired to avoid an ovation, which might be expected if it had been known among the Moors that the German Consul was returning to Fez. It is clear from this remark that it is anticipated at the German Legation that a great effect will be produced by Dr. Vassel's arrival at Fez.

Mr. Consular Agent Carleton informs me that Dr. Vassel arrived at Alcazar on the 2nd instant, and asked him to introduce him to Mulai Abbas, a brother of Mulai Hafid, who is in command of a m'halla there. Mr. Carleton appears to have acceded to this request, and reports that, in his conversation with Mulai Abbas, Dr. Vassel stated that his Government had ordered him to proceed to Fez to settle some important claims, and proceeded to enlarge upon the assistance which had been lent to Mulai Hafid by Germany, which, he said, was the only Power that received his Embassy.

The Germans evidently hope, by being first in the field, to establish a further claim on Mulai Hafid's gratitude and acquire a dominant position at the Court. They have been disappointed to find that, notwithstanding the support they have lent Mulai Hafid from the moment he first came forward as a pretender to the throne, their position at the Court is by no means what they had hoped for and expected; they are, in fact, regarded with some disfavour, owing to the wholesale protections granted by the Native Interpreter left in charge of their Consulate at Fez. It has for some time been the policy of the German Legation to grant protection to any influential Moor who may apply for it, in the belief that German influence and prestige would be increased thereby, whereas, were they to refuse, the applicant would obtain the protection of some other Power. The Consular Interpreter has acted on this principle to such an extent that it is said that the majority of principal people at Fez now possess German protection, which has been found very inconvenient by Mulai Hafid when desiring to levy contributions. He is said to have, in consequence, given orders to the authorities at Fez not to recognize any of the protections recently granted. An awkward question has thus arisen, which Dr. Vassel will be called upon to deal with. He may either endeavour to persuade Mulai Hafid that it is better that his principal subjects should be under the protection of a friendly Power like Germany than that they should obtain protection elsewhere, or, should he find it necessary, he may simply disavow the action of his Interpreter and cancel a number of the protections recently granted.

Another matter to be probably treated by Dr. Vassel is the arrest and imprisonment of Kaïd R'miki. This Kaïd is a typical Moorish Governor of the worst type. He has frequently fallen into disgrace on account of complaints made against him, but has always been able, by a distribution of presents, to regain favour and repurchase the Governorship. The sums thus expended have soon been recouped from the unfortunate tribes under his jurisdiction. This was the Kaïd who was intrusted by the Sultan with the command of his troops at Alcazar and turned traitor, causing Mulai Hafid to be proclaimed at that town last June. The German Legation has for some time past maintained intimate relations with Kaïd R'miki, and have granted protection to a number of his brothers and sons. They were in secret correspondence with him up to the time of Mulai Hafid's proclamation at Tangier, urging him to be active on behalf of Mulai Hafid. These letters were, I am informed, unsigned, but in the handwriting of the Syrian Interpreter of the Legation.

The imprisonment of Kaïd R'miki came, therefore, as an unexpected and unpleasant shock to the German Legation, and all their efforts to bring about his release have had no effect. Letters have, I understand, been dispatched to Fez on this subject from the German Legation, and Dr. Vassel will doubtless do all in his power to obtain orders for Kaïd R'miki's release, and, if possible, his reinstatement as Governor of Alcazar and the tribes in that neighbourhood.

Dr. Vassel is a very pleasant and clever man, and speaks Arabic well. It may

therefore be expected that he will soon become a *persona grata* with Mulai Hafid, who will be pleased at his coming to Fez, the first European official arriving to enter into relations with him and his Government. The move of the German Legation may therefore have some success. I doubt, however, whether the permanent results will be very important. Germany will probably not be able to maintain a predominant position for any length of time, and I do not think that the French have much cause for uneasiness. Mulai Hafid, like Mulai Abdelaziz, will soon realize—even if not already aware of it—that Germany is not prepared to lend him material support, and that without it her friendship and moral support will avail him nothing against the French, whose position on his eastern frontier and in Showia renders it imperative that he should cultivate their friendship and maintain good relations with them.

I have, &c.

(Signed) HERBERT E. WHITE.

[31835] No. 86.

Mr. White to Sir Edward Grey.—(*Received September* 14.)

(No. 221.) *Tangier, September* 4, 1908.

Sir,

SID-EL-MENEBHI, who is consulted by the Government officials in all matters, and is playing a leading part at present, informed me that, in view of Raisuli's great influence amongst the tribes in this neighbourhood, it was found necessary to have recourse to his assistance in collecting the usual contributions from the various villages for maintaining the troops encamped a few miles outside Tangier, and he expressed the hope that I would raise no objection to his being so employed.

I replied that, as arranged with the French Minister, I had requested Raisuli to use his influence in maintaining order in this district, but that I had not contemplated his acting in any official capacity; and in many ways I considered it undesirable that he should do so whilst enjoying British protection, as complaints might be, indeed had already been, made to me in regard to action he had taken on behalf of the Makhzen, but that, under the exceptional circumstances at present existing, I was unwilling to hamper the local officials, and if they considered it necessary to make use of Raisuli, I should raise no objection.

I subsequently called upon the French Minister, and acquainted him with what had passed. He fully concurred in my views, and thought that it was well that Raisuli should at present be employed by the Makhzen.

I have, &c.

(Signed) HERBERT E. WHITE.

[31836] No. 87.

Mr. White to Sir Edward Grey.—(*Received September* 14.)

(No. 222.) *Tangier, September* 5, 1908.

Sir,

I AM informed by His Majesty's Consul at Casa Blanca, and the information is confirmed by the French Minister, that Mulai-el-Amin, the Sultan's uncle and President of the International Indemnities Commission of Casa Blanca, has ceased paying the Moorish Commissioners and told them to return to their homes, owing to the present position of affairs in Morocco.

M. Regnault is making further inquiries on the subject, and I shall not fail to report to you any definite information that may reach me.

I have, &c.

(Signed) HERBERT E. WHITE.

[31753] No. 88.

Sir F. Lascelles to Sir Edward Grey. – (*Received September* 14.)

(No. 403. Confidential.) *Berlin, September* 10, 1908.

Sir,

SINCE writing my despatch No. 394, Confidential, of the 3rd instant, I have had some further conversation with Herr Stemrich on the subject of the recognition of Mulai Hafid as Sultan of Morocco, and I have explained to him, as instructed by your

telegram No. 82 of the 6th instant, that His Majesty's Government share the opinion of the French and Spanish Governments that it would be inadvisable to recognize Mulai Hafid until he should have given satisfactory guarantees that he will observe the Act of Algeciras and other Treaty obligations into which Morocco had entered. I added that His Majesty's Government considered it most important that the Powers should show unanimity on the subject, and that they now awaited the Franco-Spanish proposals.

Herr Stemrich replied that the German Government were also awaiting the Franco-Spanish proposals, and that both the French and Spanish Chargés d'Affaires had informed him that they would very shortly be in a position to communicate them to him. So far, they had not done so, although the Spanish Government had made a communication to the Dutch, the Belgian, and subsequently to the Austro-Hungarian Governments as to the advisability of recognizing Mulai Hafid as soon as he should have announced to the Powers his accession to the Throne. The Spanish Chargé d'Affaires here had not been informed of this communication, and had suggested that there might have been some misunderstanding with regard to it, but Herr Stemrich had pointed out that it was inconceivable that the same misunderstanding should have occurred at three different places, and he could not doubt that the communication, which was very similar to that which the German Representatives had been instructed to make to the Powers to whom they were accredited, had really been made.

The French Chargé d'Affaires has been good enough to tell me that he had informed Herr Stemrich that he would be instructed to communicate the Franco-Spanish proposals in the course of a few days, and that he could only attribute the delay to the wish of the Spanish Government to introduce some modification into the French draft.

I have, &c.
(Signed) FRANK C. LASCELLES.

[31756] No. 89.

Sir F. Lascelles to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received September 14.)

(No. 406.)

Sir, *Berlin, September 10, 1908.*

WITH reference to my despatch No. 403 of to-day's date, I have the honour to transmit herewith translation of a semi-official article published in the "Süddeutsche Reichskorrespondenz" of yesterday, explaining Germany's action with regard to the recognition of Mulai Hafid as Sultan of Morocco.

I have, &c.
(Signed) FRANK C. LASCELLES.

Inclosure in No. 89.

Communiqué published in the "Süddeutsche Reichskorrespondenz" of September 9, 1908.

(Translation.)

MULAI HAFID has already declared that he would accept the Act of Algeciras, and he will now repeat this declaration. Politically this can only be of use to ward off protests against his recognition; it is not really necessary. For, legally, the state of affairs is not that Hafid can be recognized because he accepts the Act, but, on the contrary, that the Powers by accepting him then subject him to the obligations of the Act. The recognition of the Sultan brings these obligations with it *ipso jure;* he cannot avoid them. Strictly speaking, the Powers have no right to demand of an unrecognized Sultan that he shall observe the Act. Consequently the matter must be hastened on. The recognition of Hafid is not a Herculean task, nor yet a problem whose solution demands great political profundity, granted of course that no Power desires to carry on a policy different from that laid down by the Act. Even the much discussed conditions of the recognition should be no hindrance. Legally it is impossible to impose on the new Sultan a condition the fulfilment of which would not be in accordance with the provisions of the Act.

Germany is, among the Signatory Powers of Algeciras, only one Power like the others. But while other Powers for various reasons are more or less disinterested in the development of affairs in Morocco, Germany remains the Power which, after France

and Spain, devotes special attention to her Moroccan rights and interests, and she comes forward just at the moment when it was thought that she had been quietly and cleverly excluded.

[31758] No. 90.

Sir F. Lascelles to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received September 14.)

(No. 408. Confidential.)

Sir, *Berlin, September 11, 1908.*

THE French Chargé d'Affaires called upon me yesterday morning, and expressed considerable annoyance at the article published in the "Süddeutsche Reichskorrespondenz" on the 9th instant, a translation of which I had the honour to inclose in my despatch No. 406 of yesterday's date.

Baron Berckheim said that it was disappointing, after the conciliatory language which Herr Stemrich had held to him, to find that a paper which is known to be Prince Bülow's organ has thought it necessary to publish a statement which could not fail to excite great irritation in France. He took especial exception to the concluding paragraph, which was intended to convey the impression that an attempt had been made to oust Germany out of Morocco, and he considered the expression "fein leise ausgeschaltet" as especially offensive. He had confined himself to forwarding a translation of this article to his Government without comment, but it had been telegraphed to Paris by the correspondent of the Havas Agency, and would no doubt lead to further recriminations in the French press. He would be very grateful for any advice I could give him as to whether he should make a complaint to Herr Stemrich.

I replied that although it was well known that the newspaper in question was frequently used by Prince Bülow, it was not acknowledged as an official organ, and the article in question had not been reproduced by the "North German Gazette," although it had been copied by nearly all the other papers. It struck me as possible that Prince Bülow, who has of late been somewhat severely attacked in the German press on account of his policy with regard to Morocco, may have chosen this method of attempting to justify himself in the eyes of his countrymen and had done so in a somewhat clumsy fashion. I doubted whether he intended to offend France, and as long as the official language of the German Government continues to be correct, I should be inclined not to attach too much importance to a newspaper article, even though there was reason to believe that it had been directly inspired. As a matter of fact the German Government were still waiting for the proposals which France and Spain were about to make with regard to the guarantees to be given by Mulai Hafid as a condition of his recognition. There were, no doubt, excellent reasons for the delay which had occurred in formulating these proposals, but I could understand that the German Government who had expressed the opinion that the early recognition of Mulai Hafid would contribute to the restoration of order in Morocco, might become impatient. I thought that Baron Berckheim might take an opportunity of pointing out to Herr Stemrich in the course of conversation that the publication of the article would not facilitate the course of the negotiations, but I thought at the same time that it would be inadvisable for him to make a formal complaint. I believed that the German Government really desired to avoid any international complication, and that it would be better to see what reception they gave to the Franco-Spanish proposals for the recognition of Mulai Hafid, before complaining of an unofficial statement in a newspaper, probably intended for home consumption, the clumsiness of which did not seem to me to redound to the credit of German diplomacy.

I have, &c.
(Signed) FRANK C. LASCELLES.

[32016] No. 91.

*Note communicated by French Ambassador, September 14, 1908.**

LA résolution que le Sultan Abd-el-Aziz vient de prendre, en renonçant à la lutte contre Moulay-Hafid, place les Puissances en présence d'une situation qui s'impose à

* Identic communication made on same date by Spanish Ambassador.

leur examen. L'attitude même qu'elles ont gardée au cours de ce conflit, leur entente sur leurs intérêts communs au Maroc et les principes dont elles sont déjà convenues lorsqu'elles ont eu à examiner la question Marocaine à Algésiras, rendent, d'ailleurs, très aisée la conformité des vues sur cette situation.

La France et l'Espagne, chargées d'assurer l'exécution des mesures les plus importantes prises par la Conférence d'Algésiras pour la sauvegarde des colonies étrangères dans l'Empire Chérifien, et spécialement intéressées dans les affaires Marocaines par leur qualité de Puissances limitrophes, croient devoir soumettre aux Cabinets les observations que leur suggère la substitution d'un nouveau Gouvernement de fait au Makhzen d'Abd-el-Aziz.

Il apparaît tout d'abord, et ce sera sans doute le sentiment unanime des Puissances, qu'il est désirable d'affirmer dans cette occasion, au regard du Maroc, leur solidarité et leur complet accord, et il semble que le meilleur moyen d'établir l'entente nécessaire soit d'admettre la règle que les divers Gouvernements ne subordonneront la reconnaissance officielle du nouveau Makhzen qu'à l'obtention de garanties et de satisfactions communes à tous les intérêts étrangers.

Les Gouvernements Français et Espagnol estiment que les garanties à obtenir du nouveau Mahkzen devraient porter sur les points suivants :—

Le nouveau Sultan déclarerait adhérer d'une façon générale à toutes les dispositions de l'Acte d'Algésiras ainsi qu'à tous les règlements d'application, prévus par cet Acte, qui ont été déjà établis et approuvés par le Corps Diplomatique à Tanger, aux Commissions instituées en vertu de ces règlements, aux décisions Chérifiennes et mesures quelconques prises à ce sujet.

On ne saurait oublier, en effet, que si cet Acte constitue la consécration internationale de l'indépendance de l'Empire Chérifien, il assure en même temps la sauvegarde des intérêts étrangers au Maroc.

Devraient être confirmés également les droits conférés à la France et à l'Espagne, avec l'agrément des Puissances, pour la surveillance sur mer de la contrebande des armes.

Le nouveau Gouvernement devrait accepter l'ensemble des autres Traités et engagements conclus par les précédents Souverains du Maroc avec les Puissances, les arrangements passés avec le Corps Diplomatique et les contrats avec les particuliers ; il assumerait aussi la responsabilité des dettes contractées par Abd-el-Aziz. Les dettes souscrites au bénéfice de particuliers seraient soumises à une vérification dont les conditions seront ultérieurement déterminées.

Le règlement des dommages causés par les troubles de Casa Blanca se poursuivra devant la Commission Internationale actuellement en fonctions. Le Sultan assumera la responsabilité effective et pécuniaire des décisions de cette Commission, dont il confirmera les attributions.

Les événements démontrent la nécessité absolue que le nouveau Sultan manifeste publiquement et officiellement, au regard de son peuple, sa ferme intention d'entretenir avec les Gouvernements étrangers et leurs nationaux des relations conformes au droit des gens.

Il devrait donc désavouer et arrêter les appels à la guerre sainte ; il adresserait dans ce but aux Gouverneurs des tribus et des villes des lettres Chérifiennes qui seraient destinées à prévenir ou calmer toute agitation et tout acte offensif, tant à l'intérieur que sur les frontières du Maroc. Le Sultan doit s'engager à adopter immédiatement toutes les mesures nécessaires pour assurer la sécurité et la liberté des communications autour des ports et sur les principales routes de l'intérieur.

Ces garanties étant obtenues, rien ne s'opposerait plus à ce qu'une demande officielle de reconnaissance faite par Moulay-Hafid fût accueillie par les Puissances. Le Sultan déclarera que cela n'implique pour les Gouvernements étrangers aucune renonciation à poursuivre le règlement des questions qui touchent exclusivement à leurs intérêts respectifs, ni aucun préjudice à leur droit de poursuivre ce règlement. C'est ainsi que la France et l'Espagne se réservent de se faire rembourser leurs frais d'opérations militaires et de réclamer directement le paiement d'indemnités pour le meurtre de leurs nationaux.

D'autre part, il conviendrait que le nouveau Sultan se prêtent à un règlement honorable de la situation personnelle d'Abd-el-Aziz et les Puissances lui recommanderont pour un traitement équitable les fonctionnaires de son prédécesseur.

Albert Gate House, Londres,
le 14 Septembre, 1908.

[32052]

No. 92.

Sir F. Bertie to Sir Edward Grey.—(*Received September* 15.)

(No. 350. Confidential.)

Sir, *Paris, September* 13, 1908.

I HAVE the honour to transmit to you herewith a Memorandum by Mr. Lister of a conversation which he had with M. Pichon on the 10th instant on the subject of the recent proceedings of the German Government in regard to Morocco, the interview of the German Chargé d'Affaires with his Excellency, the policy of the French Government, and the relations between France and Germany and between Germany and England.

In view of the observations made to Mr. Lister by M. Pichon, I asked M. Clemenceau on the 11th instant when I paid him a visit whether he was at all anxious in regard to the attitude of Germany. He replied that he did not think that the German Government meant to push matters to any serious extent, but the danger was that, with a Ruler with the impetuous temperament of the Emperor, it was impossible to feel sure to what lengths he might not unintentionally go, and the French Government would most assuredly not give way in the question of the unconditional recognition of Mulai Hafid, so unexpectedly and so brusquely proposed by the German Government. German policy was to endeavour to separate France and England, and to take every opportunity of being disagreeable to both those countries and hampering their action, so as to impress on each that nothing could be done without her consent, and to prevail on one or the other to come to an understanding with her apart from the other.

I have, &c.
(Signed) FRANCIS BERTIE.

Inclosure in No. 92.

Memorandum by Mr. Lister.

I SAW M. Pichon this afternoon, and he gave me an account of his recent interview with Baron Lancken on the subject of Morocco. He had told the latter that he was at a loss to understand the action of Germany in proposing to recognize Mulay Hafid, when she knew that France and Spain were engaged in drawing up a note on the subject to be submitted to the Powers, and now, in sending Dr. Vassel up to Fez. Baron Lancken had appeared excessively embarrassed, and seemed unable to give any direct reply ; he said that the tension between the two Powers was most regrettable ; that the press embittered the situation, and finally asked M. Pichon if he could not make him another declaration to the effect that France intended to evacuate Morocco. This demand, M. Pichon said, astounded him ; he answered that he had made a declaration to that effect at the tribune of the Chamber, that French policy in Morocco had been absolutely loyal throughout, but that now, after Germany's recent action in Morocco, he declined to make any declaration ; France would do as she thought fit.

The Franco-Spanish note, he told me, was practically settled and would be submitted Saturday or Monday. France was quite determined not to give way before Germany. She had common sense, and the Powers with her—he did not see how even Austria could support German action. He would rather, he said, retire from public life altogether, than be the instrument of inflicting such a humiliation on his country. This was the feeling of all the Cabinet.

He said that he felt that the situation was becoming serious, and although he did not anticipate any explosion in Morocco it was useless to shut one's eyes to the fact that relations between France and Germany and England and Germany were very much more strained than they had been for some time past.

Paris, September 10, 1908.

[32157] No. 93.

Sir F. Lascelles to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received September 15.)

(No. 49.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Berlin, September 15, 1908.*

RECOGNITION of Mulai Hafid.

I am informed by Herr Stemrich that a favourable impression has been created here by the Franco-Spanish note.

[32246] No. 94.

Mr. White to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received September 16.)

(No. 59.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Tangier, September 16, 1908.*

MULAI HAFID, I understand, wishes to consult with Cid-el-Menebhi, so the latter is proceeding to Fez, where he will remain a short time.

There is an idea of making Raisuli Governor over a number of tribes comprised in the district between Tetuan Alcazar and Tangier, and he will acccompany El-Menebhi to Fez.

[32241] No. 95.

Minute by Sir C. Hardinge.

MR. ASHMEAD-BARTLETT called to-day and submitted the accompanying copy of a contract which he says he has concluded with Mulai Hafid for various Mining, Railway and other Concessions. He wished to know whether the contract would be in accordance with the Act of Algeciras.

I told him that the contract would be examined, but that, while there might be some doubt as to whether mining operations could be regarded as public works under the meaning of the Act, there could be no possible doubt as to railroads being regarded as public works.

He said that a French and German Company had been at Fez trying to obtain this contract, but that he had succeeded in inducing Mulai Hafid to give it to him.

The Western Department should examine this document.

C. H.

Foreign Office, September 16, 1908.

Inclosure 1 in No. 95.

Mining Contract between Mulai Hafid and Messrs. Ashmead-Bartlett and H. Carleton.

In the name of God, whom alone we worship, who alone can help us, who alone has power over us all.

WITH the aid of God, who alone orders all things, who alone can solve all earthly problems, and who ordaineth that all things shall come to pass in their appointed time, I, Moulai-el-Hafid, have been chosen by all my people as Sultan of Morocco, and I have arrived at Fez, which is the heart of my country. On my arrival at Fez, Ellis Ashmead-Bartlett and Harry Carleton came to me and asked me to join with them in partnership to prospect for and to develop the mines of Morocco, and I have entered into partnership with Ellis Ashmead-Bartlett and Harry Carleton, or their assigns, under the eighteen following conditions. We have signed this document agreeing on these conditions. They have explained to me how advantageous it will be for my country to develop its mineral resources. Therefore I have accepted their partnership under the conditions contained in this Agreement, and all this I have done of my own free will. I have concluded this partnership because they were the first to come to me and offered to assist me when I needed help. Therefore this partnership has been arranged between us on the 4th day of Ergemb in the year 1326.

Clause 1.—Ellis Ashmead-Bartlett and Harry Carleton, or their assigns, are entitled to commence prospecting for and working minerals immediately the country is sufficiently settled, but they are not bound to do so until the time mentioned in clause 17.

Clause 2.—I hereby grant to Ellis Ashmead-Bartlett and Harry Carleton, or their assigns, the sole and exclusive right to prospect for and to develop and to work and extract all minerals found in Morocco, either gold, silver, copper, lead, iron, tin, zinc, oil, coal, precious stones, or any other species of mineral which may be found.

Clause 3.—This partnership holds good for forty years from the time of production of the first mine. At the termination of the period of forty years, the mines, machinery, and all materials chargeable to the expense of the mines shall become the property of the Sultan of Morocco.

Clause 4.—Whenever practical, native labour is to be employed in the mines; but in the event of a sufficient supply of native labour not being forthcoming, labourers may be imported from any part of the world as long as they are Mahommedans. The overseers and engineers are to be English.

Clause 5.—The Government undertakes to protect all prospecting parties and all those engaged in work in the mines.

Clause 6.—The Sultan will notify his subjects that they may work in the mines, as it is for the benefit of Morocco, and will address letters to the Kaïds to tell them to assist finding labourers for the mines.

Clause 7.—Ellis Ashmead-Bartlett and Harry Carleton, or their assigns, are to find all money which they consider necessary for prospecting and working the mines, and all such expenses are to be deducted from the gross receipts of the mines, after which the net profits shall be divided between the Sultan and Ellis Ashmead-Bartlett and Harry Carleton, or their assigns, as to 25 per cent. of such profits to the Sultan, and 75 per cent. to the said Ellis Ashmead-Bartlett, Harry Carleton, or their assigns.

Clause 8.—Ellis Ashmead-Bartlett, Harry Carleton, or their assigns, have the right to make all necessary roads and to provide other means of transport necessary for conveying materials and minerals to and from the mines to centres of distribution. They also have the right to lay down rails where this can be done with safety.

Clause 9.—At the expiration of the period of forty years, during which this Agreement holds good, the Sultan has the right to put the mines up to auction and to sell his interest in them to the highest bidder, subject to the interest of the land-owners other than the Sultan, after Ellis Ashmead-Bartlett, Harry Carleton, or their assigns, have had the first refusal at the price offered by the highest bidder.

Clause 10.—Whilst this Agreement holds good the Government of Morocco will put no export duty on any minerals extracted from the mines, nor any import duty on any materials required for use in the mines, such as machinery, tools, coal, &c. In the event of any foreign Power endeavouring to claim such duty, the Company will take upon itself the responsibility of resisting such claims.

Clause 11.—Ellis Ashmead-Bartlett, Harry Carleton, or their assigns, will pay the sum of 300,000*l.* to the Sultan of Morocco for the privilege of entering into partnership with him. This sum is not to be taken from the mines before the Sultan receives his share of the net profits. This money to be handed to the Sultan's Representatives in London, who will, on receipt of it, hand over the contract and the document of security.

Clause 12.—This Agreement holds good before and after I, Moulai-el-Hafid, am recognized as Sultan of Morocco by the Powers. I will only sign Treaties or enter into Agreements with other Powers subject to the interests created under this partnership. Neither will I renew any existing Treaties unless they be subject to the interests created under this Agreement of partnership, and nothing whatever which may happen will prevent me from fulfilling this Agreement to the letter. I do this out of friendship towards Ellis Ashmead-Bartlett and Harry Carleton, who came to help me in my hour of need.

Clause 13.—In the event of any foreign Power interfering in any way the Company will take the responsibility in a Court of Law or otherwise, and the Sultan will help as much as possible.

Clause 14.—The Sultan has the right to appoint administrators to look after his interests, and to see that he gets his share of the 35 per cent. net profits from the mines.

Clause 15.—The Sultan shall furnish security, as specified in clause 16, to the value of 375,000*l.*, against payment of 300,000*l.* paid by the Company for the privilege of partnership, in real property in and out of Fez, and this security shall be held by Ellis Ashmead-Bartlett, Harry Carleton, or their assigns, until the said sum of 300,000*l.*, as

specified in clause 11, and accumulative interest at 5 per cent. per annum has been realized by the said Ellis Ashmead-Bartlett and Harry Carleton, or their assigns, out of their share of the profits from the mines.

Clause 16.—This security has been specified, valued, and will be transferred to Ellis Ashmead-Bartlett and Harry Carleton, or their assigns, in a supplementary document as soon as the conditions specified in clause 11 have been carried out.

Clause 17.—At the expiration of a period of five years from the signing of this Agreement, and during any period from five to ten years from the signing of this Agreement, Ellis Ashmead-Bartlett and Harry Carleton, or their assigns, can, if they wish, at any time claim repayment of the said sum of 300,000*l.* paid to the Sultan of Morocco with 5 per cent. added accumulative interest, provided that the said Ellis Ashmead-Bartlett and Harry Carleton, or their assigns, have not at such time realized the sum of 300,000*l.* and interest under clause 15, and if this sum and interest is not repaid to them by the Government of Morocco within three months of such demand, the said Ellis Ashmead-Bartlett shall have the right to immediately realize the security held by them at such price and upon such terms as they may think fit, and we undertake to accept the said property absolutely for the principal and interest for the sum of 300,000*l.* paid to the Sultan of Morocco.

Clause 18.—I, Moulai-el-Hafid, Sultan of Morocco, bind myself to grant no rights to prospect for, develop, or work mines in my dominions in Morocco to any other parties save Ellis Ashmead-Bartlett and Harry Carleton, or their assigns, during the time that this Agreement of partnership holds good, and all Treaties signed by me will be subject to the interests created under this Agreement.

Clause 19.—The rights granted in this Agreement to Ellis Ashmead-Bartlett and Harry Carleton can only be assigned by them to an English Company, and the parent Company can only assign rights to English subsidiary Companies.

Clause 20.—Where mines are situated on land which is not the property of the Government of Morocco, these mines can only be worked with due regard to the interests of the owners of the soil.

Clause 21.—Unless the sum of 300,000*l.* mentioned in clause 11 is paid to the Sultan or his representative within two months of the signing of this amended Agreement, either the Sultan under his seal or the said Ellis Ashmead-Bartlett and Harry Carleton, or their assigns, may, by notice in writing, put an end to this Agreement, and thereupon this Agreement shall cease and determine without any liability on either side.

I do hereby sign this document with my seal on this

Inclosure 2 in No. 95.

Memorandum by Mr. Crowe.

THE question of Mining Concessions in Morocco is regulated by Article 112 of the Algeciras Act:—

"Un Firman Chérifien déterminera les conditions de Concession et d'exploitation des mines, minières, et carrières. Dans l'élaboration de ce Firman, le Gouvernement Chérifien s'inspirera des législations étrangères existant sur la matière."

The essence of this Article is that the grant of Concessions shall be removed from the purely arbitrary decisions of the Sultan, who is to substitute fixed rules in accordance with the principles consonant with the practice of civilized nations.

If the Sultan were to plead that as no Firman has yet been issued, and so long as no Firman has been issued he may continue to do as he likes, that, surely, would not be accepted by the Powers as an attitude in conformity with the Algeciras Act. Yet this is clearly the only argument to which Mulai Hafid could appeal if he recognizes the validity of the Act.

It seems obvious that no Firman would have any chance of being admitted by the Powers to be consonant to European legislation on the subject of Mining Concessions, which allowed of the grant of a Concession such as Mr. Ashmead-Bartlett claims to have obtained. Under its terms his Syndicate is to have for forty years the absolute monopoly of every kind of mining, or even prospecting, throughout Morocco. The stipulation is

an absurdity. It is, moreover, I think, contrary to Article 2 of the Anglo-Moorish Treaty of Commerce of 1856, which provides that—

"The Sultan of Morocco engages to abolish all monopolies or prohibitions on imported goods, except tobacco, pipes of all kinds used for smoking, opium, sulphur, powder, &c.; . . . . and further to abolish all monopolies of agricultural produce, or of any other article whatsoever in the dominions of the Sultan, except leeches, bark, tobacco, and other herbs used for smoking in pipes."

It is admittedly sometimes difficult to say where the line is to be drawn between a specific Concession for a term of years and a monopoly. But there is no doubt in my mind that a Concession of the sole right to mine or prospect for mining, covering the whole of Morocco and lasting for forty years, is an absolute monopoly in the sense of the above-quoted Article.

Foreign Office, September 16, 1908.

[32323] No. 96.

Sir F. Lascelles to Sir Edward Grey.—(*Received September* 17.)

(No. 415.)

Sir, *Berlin, September* 14, 1908.

THE "Kölnische Zeitung" takes great exception to the account published by the "Times" of the arrest of Kaïd Remiki, whose release the "Times" states was demanded by Germany. In a Berlin telegram dated the 11th instant, the Cologne organ points out that Kaïd Remiki was apparently one of the earliest supporters of Mulai Hafid, whose cause he pushed by every means in his power in the north of Morocco. On the arrest of Remiki by Mulai Hafid's representative, El Menebhi, the German Minister did, as the Cologne paper states, point out that this act would produce a very bad impression and, in fact, would be to the advantage of the party of Abdul Aziz. But he did not demand the release of Remiki, inasmuch as the latter was not a German, but a French-protected subject; and his release has been obtained by the French Representative at Tangier. The German Minister, however, admittedly informed El Menebhi that Remiki's son was under German protection, and therefore subject to the jurisdiction of the Capitulations. The "Cologne Gazette" therefore fails to see how these facts can possibly lead to any international difficulties, and concludes with a word of praise for Mulai Hafid's sense of justice, if it be true that he had ordered Remiki to be arrested to answer for grave offences with which he was charged, in spite of the fact that he was one of Mulai Hafid's staunchest friends.

The same telegram reiterates the assurance that there is no truth in the "Figaro's" assurance that Dr. Vassel at Alcazar assured Mulai Hafid that he might count on Germany's support under any circumstances. This report, says the paper, is as unfounded as are the further insinuations that Germany is seeking thus to obtain a moral protectorate over Morocco, with a view to pacific penetration later on, on her own account. Germany's sole wish is to see the spirit and wording of the Act of Algeciras observed, and order restored as quickly as possible in Morocco.

I have, &c.

(Signed) FRANK C. LASCELLES.

[32016] No. 97.

Sir Edward Grey to Sir F. Lascelles. *

(No. 86.)

(Telegraphic.) R. *Foreign Office, September* 17, 1908.

MOROCCO.

His Majesty's Government have informed French and Spanish Governments that they agree to recognition of Mulai Hafid, subject to conditions set forth in Franco-Spanish notes.

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* Also to Sir E. Goschen, No. 75; Sir A. Hardinge, No. 6; Mr. Howard, No. 104; Mr. Wyndham, No. 84; Sir H. Howard, No. 4; Mr. Rennie, No. 15; Sir A. Nicolson, No. 368; Mr. Dering, No. 21; and Mr. White, No. 32.

[32016] No. 98.

*Sir Edward Grey to M. Cambon.**

Foreign Office, September 17, 1908.

Your Excellency,

HIS Majesty's Government have given careful consideration to the note which your Excellency was good enough to communicate to me on the 14th instant with regard to the recognition of Mulai Hafid as Sultan of Morocco.

I have the honour to inform your Excellency that His Majesty's Government agree with the French Government that the recognition of Mulai Hafid by the Powers should be made dependent on his acceptance of the terms set forth in your note.

A similar communication has been addressed to the Spanish Ambassador.

I have, &c.
(Signed) E. GREY.

[32347] No. 99.

Sir F. Bertie to Sir Edward Grey.—(*Received September* 18.)

(No 354.)

Paris, September 16, 1908.

Sir,

IN a conversation on the affairs of Morocco which I had to-day with M. Louis, the Political Director, he informed me that Mulai Hafid seemed to be in a more reasonable state of mind. He had appointed El Menebhi to be a sort of general adviser, and he had given to Guebbas, who is known to be favourable to the French, the direction of all affairs connected with the organization of the police.

I have, &c.
(Signed) FRANCIS BERTIE.

[32589] No. 100.

Mr. White to Sir Edward Grey.—(*Received September* 19.)

(No. 60.)

(Telegraphic.) P. *Tangier, September* 19, 1908.

ABDICATION of Abdul Aziz.

Abdul Aziz has accepted the terms enumerated in my despatch No. 224 of the 12th instant, and they will now be submitted to his brother.

[32581] No. 101.

Mr. White to Sir Edward Grey.—(*Received September* 21.)

(No. 224. Confidential.)

Tangier, September 12, 1908.

Sir,

WITH reference to my despatch No. 218 of the 29th ultimo, I have the honour to report that Cid Mokri and Cid Boukili, acting on behalf of the Sultan, and Cid-el-Menebhi, on behalf of Mulai Hafid, have been engaged this week in unofficial negotiations regarding the terms to be granted to the Sultan on his abandoning the throne. Cid-ben-Ghabrit, the Algerian Interpreter of the French Legation, has been present at the negotiations, acting as a mediator, and at the request of the French Minister he has communicated to me confidentially the terms which have been unanimously agreed upon, and which are to the following effect :—

1. Mulai Abd-el-Aziz will receive a pension at the rate of 10,000*l.* per annum, to be paid monthly by the State Bank as a first charge upon Makhzen funds. He will leave Morocco for a time and travel, the length of time he will be absent and the places he will visit being left to his own discretion. When he returns he will reside at Tangier, but will be free to visit any part of Morocco he may choose. He may be accompanied in his travels by any of his brothers or other members of his family.

* Also to Señor Villa Urrutia, *mutatis mutandis*.

2. All the property, real and personal, inherited from his father will be retained by him. He will be exempt from all taxation or customs duties.

3. The Makhzen will take over and be responsible for the payment of all proved Government debts, loans, and indemnities, such as those for Casa Blanca and Ujda.

4. The jewellery deposited in Paris as security for a loan will be redeemed by the Makhzen. This jewellery will then be divided into two equal parts, one of which will be taken by Mulai Abd-el-Aziz and the other by Mulai Hafid.

5. An amnesty will be granted to all officials who have remained faithful to the Sultan ; they will retain all their property, real and personal, and will be free to live where they please, the only exception being that Cid Tazzi's large house at Fez will be confiscated by the Makhzen.

These terms, which appear to be reasonable and fairly generous, will now be submitted to the Sultan, and will, after their acceptance by His Majesty, be submitted to Mulai Hafid, who will be recommended to agree to them.

I may mention, with reference to the 3rd clause, that the French Algerian Interpreter pointed out that there was no necessity to refer to the Casa Blanca and Ujda indemnities, but Cid Mokri, Cid Boukili, and Cid-el-Menebhi all insisted on including them. M. Regnault fears that Mulai Hafid will submit the terms to Dr. Vassel for his advice, and that the reference to these indemnities will give rise to difficulties.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HERBERT E. WHITE.

[32582] No. 102.

Mr. White to Sir Edward Grey.—(*Received September* 21.)

(No. 225.)

Tangier, September 12, 1908.

Sir,

THE fall of the Sultan renders the position of the various military missions in Morocco uncertain, for whilst it is possible that some of the foreign officers, who have not specially identified themselves with Mulai Abd-el-Aziz, may be able eventually to retain their positions under Mulai Hafid, it would appear difficult for others to do so.

I understand that M. Regnault has recommended Commandant Farriau, the superior officer of the French Military Mission, to remain himself with the Sultan for the present, but to grant leave of absence to the other officers.

None of the other foreign officers have been with the Sultan since His Majesty left Rabat.

Dr. Verdon was sent by Mulai Abd-el-Aziz to Tangier a few days ago to transact some business for His Majesty ; he is at present seriously ill in hospital. It is unlikely that he will remain in Morocco longer than the time necessary to settle his affairs. Sergeant Balding, who accompanied Dr. Verdon to Tangier, applied to me for advice as to what he should do. I suggested that he should return to the Sultan and ascertain His Majesty's wishes, and that, should his services be no longer required, he should come back to Tangier in order that I might make arrangements for his return to England.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HERBERT E. WHITE.

[32584] No. 103.

Mr. White to Sir Edward Grey.—(*Received September* 21.)

(No. 227.)

Tangier, September 12, 1908.

Sir,

NOTWITHSTANDING German protestations that Dr. Vassel's return to Fez is devoid of all political significance and the denials published in the press of the reports received as to his proceedings at Alcazar, there can be no doubt that that official is making every effort to persuade Mulai Hafid and his officials to lean upon Germany for support and place themselves under his guidance.

In my despatch No. 220 of the 2nd instant I had the honour to report the language held by Dr. Vassel to Mulai-el-Abbas, when passing through Alcazar. I am informed that after the interview Mulai-el-Abbas communicated what had passed

to a number of the principal people, a great impression being produced on them, as appears from letters received by various Moorish officials and others here.

Dr. Vassel reached Fez on the 4th instant and was received by Mulai Hafid on the 8th. According to the reports which have reached M. Regnault from the Algerian who is in charge of the French Consulate at Fez, and who states that he has his information from a sure source, Dr. Vassel impressed upon Mulai Hafid that Germany was ready to be his friend and counsellor, and urged him not to agree to any proposals the French might put forward without first referring the matter to them for advice.

The news of the crushing defeat suffered by the Tafilelt harka at the hands of the French at Bu Denib will probably have a salutary effect on Mulai Hafid, and will bring home to him the soundness of the advice tendered by Cid-el-Menebhi and Cid Guebbas that it is of the first importance to cultivate good relations with the French, and that it would be dangerous to yield too far to German blandishments.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HERBERT E. WHITE.

[32585] No. 104.

Mr. White to Sir Edward Grey.—(*Received September* 21.)

(No. 228.)

Sir, *Tangier, September* 13, 1908.

THE proclamation of Mulai Hafid at Saffi on the 5th and at Mogador on the 9th instant completes the recognition of the new Sultan throughout the whole country, except the Showia Province, which is under French occupation, and the neighbourhood of M'Touga, where the Kaïd is apparently still holding his own. The son and successor of the murdered Kaïd Anfloos has caused Mulai Hafid to be proclaimed in Haha, and even Oujda, notwithstanding the presence of the French, who remained scrupulously neutral, has followed the example of the other towns and declared for the same Prince.

Everywhere the proclamation has passed off quietly, and though at Rabat the situation at one time caused anxiety, at no single place have there been any disturbances, but merely feasting and popular rejoicings, that have had the appearance of being genuine.

It was feared that trouble might be caused by the troops, whose pay was stopped owing to the refusal of the State Bank to pay out any of the Makhzen funds until the position of the rival Sultans was definitely settled. The difficulty has, however, been got over by an order on the bank signed jointly by Cid El-Mokri, as representing Mulai Abdul Aziz, and by Cid Guebbas, on behalf of Mulai Hafid.

Acting on the advice of the Tangier Notables, and possibly also of the German Legation, Mulai Hafid has addressed a letter to the doyen of the Diplomatic Body reaffirming his determination to observe the Algeciras Act and other Treaties entered into by his predecessors, and requesting that, having been now proclaimed throughout these realms, he be recognized by the Powers also as Sultan. I have the honour to transmit herewith translation of this letter, which was delivered yesterday. It has been well timed, arriving as it does just after the submission of Saffi and Mogador; it will also be in the hands of the Powers when they receive communication of the Franco-Spanish note.

Hadj Dris Benjelun, whose departure for Fez was reported in my despatch No. 214 of the 26th ultimo, has left Fez on his return journey, and is expected to arrive here to-day or to-morrow. In letters written before his departure, he stated that Mulai Hafid had received him very well, and he expressed his intention of following the advice tendered by Cid-el-Menebhi, Cid Torres, Cid Guebbas, and other Tangier Notables.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HERBERT E. WHITE.

Inclosure in No. 104.

Mulai Hafid to the Doyen of the Diplomatic Body.

(Traduction.)

NOUS rendons grâce à Dieu le Maître, le Tout-Puissant, qui régit ses créatures conformément à ses lois et à sa sagesse divine.

Nous demandons de vos nouvelles.

Vous n'ignorez pas qu'après la lettre que nous vous avons adressée dernièrement aux Représentants des Puissances amies, nous avons été proclamé Sultan de cet Empire fortuné à Tanger et dans tous les autres ports heureux.

Cette proclamation, qui était cachée dans les cœurs de notre peuple depuis longtemps, a suivi notre reconnaissance dans les capitales et dans l'intérieur. En conséquence, notre devoir est d'exercer les droits de notre souveraineté dans cet Empire et de faire le nécessaire afin d'amener la sécurité à nos sujets et aux sujets des Puissances amies dans toutes les régions de l'Empire. De même, cette proclamation nous oblige, d'une façon spéciale, à exécuter les engagements au sujet desquels l'accord est intervenu entre le Gouvernement Marocain et les Puissances amies à la Conférence d'Algésiras, et à entreprendre les mesures administratives conformément à l'accord susdit. Vous n'ignorez pas que l'accomplissement de ces obligations ne nous serait possible tant que nos Représentants à Tanger—qui doivent prendre part aux délibérations avec le Corps Diplomatique et procéder à l'exécution des œuvres résultant de leur accord pour le bien de ce pays—ne sont pas reconnus par les Puissances amies comme les Représentants de notre Majesté. Vous connaissez l'étendu du mal qui résulte de cette situation pour le pays.

En conséquence, nous prions votre Excellence de porter ce qui précède à la connaissance des respectables Représentants des Puissances amies, afin qu'ils en informent leurs Gouvernements, pour que ceux-ci se mettent d'accord et nous reconnaissent comme Sultan de cet Empire, en nous faisant connaître leur décision par votre intermédiaire.

Nous n'avons pas besoin de nous étendre davantage, cependant, étant donné que Dieu (qu'il soit exalté) a guidé cet Empire fortuné et a dilaté le cœur de notre peuple en reconnaissant notre Majesté (élevée par Dieu) et en nous proclamant Sultan de cet Empire, qui a des relations solides et des droits clairs avec toutes les Puissances amies, nous déclarons reconnaître les Traités conclus entre nos prédécesseurs et toutes les Puissances, notamment l'Acte Général d'Algésiras, que nous considérons comme la base de la prospérité et des progrès de cet heureux Empire au point de vue politique et économique, attendu que le dit Acte garantit, d'un côté, l'indépendance de notre pays, et, d'un autre côté, impose la mise à l'œuvre de réformes utiles.

Nous espérons que les Puissances amies nous prêteront leur concours à titre égal dans les délibérations relatives à ces réformes, dont dépend le progrès et le bien-être de notre peuple, et dans leur exécution. Salut!

Le 9 Chaaban, 1326 (5 *Septembre*, 1908).

[32586] No. 105.

Mr. White to Sir Edward Grey.—(*Received September* 21.)

(No. 229.)

Sir, *Tangier, September* 14, 1908.

AN interesting figure in Moorish politics has been removed by the death of Sid Hadj Mohammed-el-Torres, who for the last quarter of a century has represented the Makhzen at Tangier as Commissioner for Foreign Affairs.

Owing to his advanced age, for he was eighty-seven years old at the time of his death, Sid Torres has for some years been assisted in his work by younger men, who have been associated with him in his office, and it is believed to have been the intention of Mulai Hafid to have allowed him to retire on a pension. His great experience, his honesty of purpose, from the Moorish and Mussulman point of view, and his comparative integrity, had won for him the respect of all classes in this country, with whom his influence was great. Notwithstanding the number of years during which he held office as Administrator of Customs, as Governor, and then as Commissioner for Foreign Affairs, he has died a comparatively poor man. I fear that it is a rare thing to find a Moorish official who does not regard his office principally as a means of enriching himself. His lack of wealth, combined with the respect in which he was held, rendered him very independent, for he knew he had nothing to fear from the Sultan or his Viziers. No wealth could be "squeezed" from him, and his influence and experience were useful to the Makhzen. He was consequently very outspoken in his criticisms of the Makhzen, and made no secret of his disapproval of their methods.

By the foreign Representatives he was personally liked, but, especially during the last few years, when advancing years made him more obstinate and impatient, he was generally found difficult to deal with.

He came of a good old Tetuan family, one of the several families who settled in that town on the expulsion of the Moors from Spain.

As a young man he led a somewhat irregular life, and sowed his share of wild oats; and it was only when he had already attained a certain age that he steadied down and entered the Government service as an Administrator of Customs. Subsequently he was appointed Governor of Casa Blanca, which post he held for five years. In 1883 he came to Tangier as an assistant to the then Commissioner for Foreign Affairs, Sid Bargash, whom he shortly after succeeded. He was sent to Rome as special Envoy to Pope Leo XIII on the occasion of his Jubilee, and he was first Moorish Delegate at the Algeciras Conference, where, however, he was merely a figure-head, taking no part in the proceedings.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HERBERT E. WHITE.

[32642] No. 106.

Mr. Chilton to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received September 21.)

(No. 113.)
Sir, *Brussels, September* 19, 1908.

WITH reference to your telegram No. 6 of the 17th instant, I have the honour to report that the French Chargé d'Affaires told me yesterday that he had up to the present had no reply to the note handed to the Belgian Foreign Office by the French and Spanish Legations on the 14th instant respecting the recognition of Mulai Hafid as Sultan of Morocco. M. Ganderax attributed this chiefly to the fact that both M. Davignon and M. van der Elst were absent, and said that even if these gentlemen had been in Brussels he was sure they would not have replied until they had ascertained what Germany's answer was likely to be, as the Belgian Government stood in great awe of that country, and would be terribly afraid of doing anything which might displease her.

Several papers here comment upon remarks made in the French press on the way in which the Belgian Minister at Tangier had never attempted to hide his sympathy for Germany, and had never hesitated to display his anti-French feelings.

The "Journal de Bruxelles" points out that this is not the first time that France has accused Belgium of undue sympathy with Germany, though, in his book on Morocco, the Comte de Buisseret shows an absolutely impartial spirit towards both France and Germany.

The "Indépendance Belge" in a leading article draws attention to the fact that Belgium has no interests in Morocco, that she is a neutral country, and that she has no right to side with either France or Germany. The French press must not think that the personal sentiments of the Belgian Minister at Tangier can influence in any way the attitude of the Belgian Government.

I have, &c.
(Signed) H. G. CHILTON.

[32628] No. 107.

Sir F. Lascelles to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received September 21.)

(No. 418.)
Sir, *Berlin, September* 16, 1908.

IN the interview which I had yesterday with Herr Stemrich the conversation turned upon the presentation to him yesterday by M. Cambon of the Franco-Spanish note with regard to the conditions to be demanded of Mulai Hafid before he should be recognized as Sultan of Morocco. Herr Stemrich told me that the impression produced by the note had been a favourable one.

M. Cambon has been good enough to tell me that Herr Stemrich, on receiving the note, read it with attention. When he had got about half through it, he said that so far it coincided with the views of the German Government, as it laid stress upon the advisability of the solidarity of the Powers. On concluding the note, he made no further remark about it, but said that he would submit it to the Chancellor, and he could assure M. Cambon that it would be taken into consideration in the most friendly spirit.

I have, &c.
(Signed) FRANK C. LASCELLES.

[32811] No. 108.

Sir A. Nicolson to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received September 21.)

(No. 170.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *St. Petersburgh, September* 21, 1908.

RECOGNITION of Mulai Hafid.

I learn from the French Minister here that the Russian Government will accept the Franco-Spanish note without any reservations. I hasten to inform you of this, as I have been given to understand that there are rumours in circulation to the effect that the Russian Government are unable to agree without reservation to all the points contained in the above-mentioned note.

[32921] No. 109.

Sir M. de Bunsen to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received September 23.)

(No. 126. Confidential.)
Sir, *San Sebastian, September* 17, 1908.

I HAD some conversation last night with M. Révoil, French Ambassador, on his return to San Sebastian after an absence of some weeks in France. His Excellency having been lately summoned to Paris to confer with M. Pichon on the situation in Morocco, I asked him what impression had been produced on the French Government by recent events. He said that the extreme zeal of Germany to get Mulai Hafid recognized, immediately, and without guarantees, has been regarded as another instance of the unintelligent and inconsistent manner in which Germany conducted her policy in Morocco. The avowed object of Mulai Hafid's recognition had not been advanced a single day, and the obvious German desire to curry favour with the new Sultan could only lead, if successful, to a further conflict of opposing interests at Fez, by which the pacification of the country might be indefinitely delayed. The French Government hoped, however, that the naturally strong position which they occupied as a neighbouring Power would lead Mulai Hafid to understand that he will be compelled in the long run to follow French advice. M. Révoil thought the terms of the Franco-Spanish notes, which were communicated on the 14th instant to the Powers, were such as to render the concurrence of the other Powers very easy to the latter. The conditions attached to recognition were only such as interested all the Algeciras Powers jointly. As to the rights which France and Spain reserved to themselves to recover separately indemnities for war expenses and other special claims, happily France was in a position to insist on what she might decide to exact, for she would certainly refuse to evacuate the country behind Casa Blanca till her just demands had been met. His Excellency did not think that anything like the entire expenses of her military operations would be demanded. These amounted to a great deal over 100,000,000 fr., but probably not more than 50,000,000 fr. would be asked, in the Ambassador's opinion, with easy terms for payments spread over a considerable period.

I have, &c.
(Signed) MAURICE DE BUNSEN.

[33025] No. 110.

Sir F. Bertie to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received September 23.)

(No. 47.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Paris, September* 23, 1908.

I SAW the Political Director at the Ministry for Foreign Affairs this morning and learnt from him that the French Government have not yet received the text of the German reply to the French note in regard to the recognition of Mulai Hafid. A short summary had, he said, been telegraphed by the French Ambassador at Berlin, and to judge from the summary the reply appeared to be fairly satisfactory. It admits generally that the conditions which the French Government propose to attach to the recognition of Mulai Hafid are reasonable, and it recognizes that the questions connected with the provision by the Moorish Government of money for the payment of the French and Spanish military expenses and the indemnities for losses at Casa Blanca are matters to be discussed between the Makhzen and the Governments of

France and Spain. It expresses the opinion, however, that in settling these questions the financial position of Morocco should be taken into consideration. The reply further contends that pressure should not be exercised on the Sultan to induce him to disavow a holy war, but that a general declaration that he will respect foreign subjects and interests should be accepted by the Powers.

[33019] No. 111.

Mr. White to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received September 23.)

(No. 61.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Tangier, September 23, 1908.*

BEN GHABRIT, the Algerian Interpreter of the French Legation, a very intelligent man, who has been much used by them for communicating privately by word of mouth with Mulai Abdel Aziz, has left for Fez, nominally for the purpose of taking charge of the Consular archives and the French post office at that place, sick leave having been granted to the Algerian employé who had hitherto had charge of them.

[33122] No. 112.

Mr. White to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received September 24.)

(No. 62.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Tangier, September 24, 1908.*

MULAI MOHAMMED, a brother of Mulai Abdelaziz, has sent letters to Rabat, in which, according to the French Vice-Consul there, he lays claim to the throne, and names the place for an army to assemble in his support. Owing to his popularity, which is considerable throughout Morocco, Mulai Hafid will find in him a formidable rival. He would certainly not be desirable as Sultan, and French Minister tells me that the Sultan has been advised not to let him leave Casa Blanca, where he is kept under restriction.

[32241] No. 113.

Foreign Office to Mr. E. Ashmead-Bartlett.

Sir, *Foreign Office, September 25, 1908.*

I AM directed by Secretary Sir E. Grey to inform you that the contract for Mining Concessions in Morocco which you have concluded with Mulai Hafid, and a copy of which you communicated to Sir Charles Hardinge on the 16th instant, has been carefully examined at the Foreign Office.

Sir E. Grey is advised that, apart from the question whether a Concession granted by Mulai Hafid before his recognition by the Powers as Sultan of Morocco can be considered valid, and the question of the bearing of the provisions of the Act of Algeciras upon the Agreement, the contract obtained by you is in conflict with the terms of Article 2 of the Anglo-Moorish Treaty of Commerce of 1856, under which the Sultan engages to abolish all monopolies in his dominions. The contract is therefore not one which can have the support of His Majesty's Government.

A copy of Article 2 of the Treaty of 1856 is annexed for your information.

I am, &c.
(Signed) F. A. CAMPBELL.

[33458] No. 114.

Mr. White to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received September 28.)

(No. 230.)
Sir, *Tangier, September 16, 1908.*

I INQUIRED of Sid-el-Menebhi this morning whether he had any reliable information as to the language held by Dr. Vassel to Mulai Hafid since his arrival at Fez.

He replied that he had received letters on the subject and had also heard through

Hadj Dris Benjelun, who had just returned from Fez. Up to the date of his latest information Dr. Vassel had had two interviews with Mulai Hafid. At the first he had conveyed complimentary messages from his Government, and, referring to the services they had already rendered to his cause, gave assurances of their desire to render him further assistance in every way. Mulai Hafid expressed his gratitude for the past services as well as for the assurances as to the future, and sent suitable complimentary messages in return. He was careful, however, not to commit himself in any way. At the second interview Dr. Vassel, it appears, was more explicit, and requested Mulai Hafid to undertake to consult his Government in all matters, asking that he should take no decision in regard to any proposal or request put forward by the French or other Legation without first consulting them. He asked Mulai Hafid categorically whether he would engage to do this and to act upon the advice they might give, stating that he had to communicate his reply to his Government. Mulai Hafid replied that it was a serious matter, and he must take time to consider it before coming to a decision. On the following day he sent a verbal reply to Dr. Vassel, through the deputy of the Grand Vizier, to the effect that it was impossible for him to give the undertaking desired: he must reserve his liberty of action in all cases.

Dr. Vassel also spoke of the imprisonment of Kaïd R'miki, and endeavoured to obtain orders for his immediate release; but here again Mulai Hafid put him off, saying he was certain Sid-el-Menebhi had not acted in the matter without good cause, and that he would take no decision without being in possession of his report.

Sid-el-Menebhi is convinced that the foregoing account of what passed between Dr. Vassel and Mulai Hafid is accurate. At the same time it must be borne in mind that implicit reliance cannot be placed on any information that has been derived from Moorish sources. That Dr. Vassel has not found Mulai Hafid as clay in his hand appears from a letter he has addressed to Mr. Consular Agent Carleton, of which I have the honour to transmit an extract herewith. The probability is that Mulai Hafid will consult Dr. Vassel in many matters, without, however, necessarily giving him full information even about the matter in question, and without following his advice unless it falls in with his own views.

Sid-el-Menebhi evidently anticipates that Mulai Hafid will endeavour to revert to old methods and will avoid putting himself in the hands of any Power—Germany, France, or other. He will endeavour to govern without the help of Europeans, introducing, however, such reforms as may be possible with Moorish officials. He will maintain existing institutions, such as Customs control, police, &c., and will do his best to increase his revenues by allowing the working of mines in certain districts and adopting such other methods as would be received by the people. I am inclined to think, however, that Sid-el-Menebhi will find he is mistaken, and that Mulai Hafid will not be so averse to the employment of Europeans as he seems to anticipate.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HERBERT E. WHITE.

Inclosure in No. 114.

Dr. Vassel to Mr. Carleton.

(Extract.)

THE new Makhzen gives me a distinctly good impression of solidity and political insight. Surely they will be neither French nor German nor anything else but Moorish. No threatening and no sweetness will do with them. Instead of slimness and persuasion European diplomacy will have to use reasonable arguments with them. Mere instigation will not do: it will require a both-sided negotiation on terms.

This was clearly to be noticed in the R'miki case. In a day or two you will hear all about it. The final solution is an almost mathematical medium between the interests of the R'miki family and the necessity of avoiding unpleasantness to Menebhi.

(Signed) TH. VASSEL.

F.O. 413/50 PUBLIC RECORD OFFICE, LONDON

[33459] No. 115.

Mr. White to Sir Edward Grey.—(*Received September* 28.)

(No. 231.)

Tangier, September 16, 1908.

Sir,

SID-EL-MENEBHI informed me that he proposed to take Raisuli with him to Fez, as Mulai Hafid desired to see him with a view to appointing him Governor of the mountain tribes in the north. Raisuli himself, who is very ambitious, is anxious to obtain such an appointment, and is, it appears, prepared to make a handsome present in cash to Mulai Hafid in return. Sid-el-Menebhi remarked that Mulai Hafid is in pressing need of money, and he inquired whether an advance could be made to Raisuli out of the 15,000*l.* deposited at the State Bank. I replied that it was out of the question, as the money deposited at the bank did not belong to Raisuli, who, however, could doubtless make arrangements for withdrawing the 5,000*l.* he had deposited at a private bank.

In reply to my inquiry as to the extent of the district it was proposed to place under Raisuli's jurisdiction, Sid-el-Menebhi informed me that he was to have all the tribes north of Laraiche, Alcazar, and Wazan and west of the Ghomara and Riff, except Tangier, Tetuan, Arzila, Laraiche, and Alcazar, with their neighbouring districts.

I observed that it might be dangerous to place a man of Raisuli's antecedents at the head of so large a district, extending from the Straits to Alcazar and from within a few miles of the Atlantic to the Riff and Ghomara. He, however, replied that he was confident that there was no danger, as Raisuli would soon be involved in difficulties with the turbulent tribes, would lose his popularity, and would probably eventually come to grief. In the meantime he would be useful to the Government by preventing any disturbances amongst the hill tribes bordering the Fez road, and he himself, being content, would not carry on any intrigues.

I have consulted the French Minister on this subject, and he was of opinion that it was better not to interfere, but to allow the new Makhzen to go their own way in this respect.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HERBERT E. WHITE.

[33460] No. 116.

Mr. White to Sir Edward Grey.—(*Received September* 28.)

(No. 232.)

Tangier, September 16, 1908.

Sir,

CID-EL-MENEBHI called upon me this morning and informed me that Mulai Hafid had expressed the wish that he should go to Fez, in order that he might consult him on various matters. He proposed, therefore, to start for Fez as soon as possible, as he thought it desirable that he should be at Mulai Hafid's side just now to give him advice, so as to counteract any undue influence Dr. Vassel might obtain over him.

Cid-el-Menebhi repeated that he had no desire to obtain any office, and had made this clear to Mulai Hafid, who fully understood it, and had no intention of offering him any post. He was much gratified by a letter he had just received from Mulai Hafid, who refers in flattering terms to the services he had rendered, and authorizes him to exercise a control over affairs in the neighbourhood, naming him the Friend and Counsellor of the Makhzen. I beg leave to inclose herewith a translation of this letter.

Hitherto Mulai Hafid has certainly relied greatly upon Cid-el-Menebhi for advice in all matters. The letter addressed to the doyen of the Diplomatic Body, translation of which was inclosed in my despatch No. 228 of the 13th instant, was, so Cid-el-Menebhi tells me, written on his advice, having been drafted by himself, the only modification introduced at Fez being the addition of the words "à titre égal" in the last paragraph. The letter was sent to Cid-el-Menebhi for delivery, his attention being drawn to the words added, and he was instructed to return the letter without delivering it, if he considered there was any objection to the words in question, Mulai Hafid observing that he had accepted a suggestion to add them as they appeared to him unobjectionable.

Cid-el-Menebhi was informed by an official at Fez that the words in question had been introduced at the suggestion of Dr. Vassel, who had also recommended a number of other modifications, which, however, were not accepted by Mulai Hafid.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HERBERT E. WHITE.

Inclosure in No. 116.

Mulai Hafid to Cid-el-Menebhi.

(Translation.)

(After compliments.)

10 *Shaban*, 1326 (*September* 7, 1908).

YOUR laudable efforts in connection with the work of our Majesty—exalted by God—and the energy which you have displayed in giving advice, and your exertions to promote the general welfare, public and private, is well known to us in every particular, and we thank you therefore, as is our bounden duty, since you are most deserving and worthy thereof. We will give evidence of our gratitude as soon as the situation becomes clear, and loyalty is completely established, by the power of God.

It is necessary that you should be particularly distinguished by a special appointment, which will have the effect of causing to be generally known that which before was hidden in respect to the disinterestedness of your counsels, and will make apparent the true friendship and sincerity of purpose which are inherent qualities of your nature.

We now place under your control all the affairs of the Makhzen in the port of Tangier and its neighbourhood, and we authorize you to write to our Majesty on all that which may be necessary, since we are certain that you will not advise aught but that which is advantageous, and will not agree to anything except that which will prove beneficial either in the present or in the future.

You are designated Adviser and Friend of the Government.

Compliments and salam.

(Seal of Mulai Hafid.)

[33461] No. 117.

Mr. White to Sir Edward Grey.—(*Received September* 28.)

(No. 233.)

Tangier, September 18, 1908.

Sir,

THE complete text of the Franco-Spanish note was at once telegraphed from Berlin to the German Legation, and a translation thereof communicated to Sid-el-Menebhi. The French Legation subsequently communicated to him a translation in order to make sure that he was acquainted with the exact terms.

Sid-el-Menebhi, in speaking to me of the note, expressed the opinion that its terms were moderate, and such as could readily be accepted by Mulai Hafid, with the exception of the required disavowal of the holy war. He said he had mentioned this to M. Regnault, and had gathered that an agreement could easily be arrived at on this point, as Mulai Hafid would be prepared to address letters to all towns and tribes impressing on them the necessity of maintaining good relations with Christians, and would take all possible steps to put a stop to all agitation, so that the object of the Franco-Spanish note in this respect would be attained; in fact, Menebhi considered that the whole clause could be accepted as it stood if only the word "désavouer" were omitted.

I am informed privately that, in forwarding translation of this note to Mulai Hafid, Sid-el-Menebhi has strongly urged him to forestall its presentation by addressing a letter to the Powers giving all the assurances and undertakings required therein, and this advice has been supported by other officials here. Mulai Hafid is urgently in need of money, and a considerable sum lies at the State Bank to the credit of the Makhzen, which would be at his disposal so soon as he is recognized by the Powers; it is therefore very important that he should be recognized as soon as possible. It is feared, however, that Germany, for her own ends, will raise objections to the note and thus delay the recognition, whereas if Mulai Hafid comes forward at once and spontaneously gives all the assurances required in the note, all discussion

would be closed, he would be immediately recognized, and could draw upon the State Bank for the requirements of the Makhzen. These arguments have, I understand, been put before Mulai Hafid, and it is hoped that he will act upon the advice given.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HERBERT E. WHITE.

[33481] No. 118.

Mr. Howard to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received September 28.)

(No. 283.)
Sir, *Manchester-by-the-Sea, September 15, 1908.*

I DULY carried out the instructions contained in your telegram of the 7th* instant with regard to the manner in which the views of His Majesty's Government on the subject of the recognition of Mulai Hafid were to be conveyed to the Acting Secretary of State, and I have now the honour to transmit to you herewith copy of the personal and unofficial letter which I have received from him in reply.

I have, &c.
(Signed) ESME HOWARD.

Inclosure in No. 118.

Mr. Adee to Mr. Howard.

(Personal and Unofficial.) *State Department, Washington, September 11, 1908.*
My dear Mr. Chargé,

I HAVE had the pleasure to receive your personal lines of the 9th in regard to the Moroccan situation and the views of your Government on the suggested recognition of Mulai Hafid by the Algeciras signatories.

I have had the views of France, Germany, and Spain communicated to me very informally and not very definitely, and I have said that, in view of our reservation in becoming a party to the Act of Algeciras, it does not seem that the United States is in a position to join influentially in any initiative towards the recognition of Mulai Hafid. We are simply looking on and awaiting results. It is probable that the foreshadowed joint communication of France and Spain will throw light on the situation.

I am, &c.
(Signed) ALVEE A. ADEE.

[33634] No. 119.

M. Cambon to Foreign Office.—(Received September 28.)

(Privée.) *Ambassade de France, Londres, ce 26 Septembre, 1908.*
Cher Sir Francis,

JE vous envoie, à titre privé, la copie de la note Allemande en réponse à la note Franco-Espagnole relative à la reconnaissance de Muley Hafid.

Votre sincèrement,
(Signé) PAUL CAMBON.

Inclosure in No. 119.

Reply of German Government to Franco-Spanish Note.

LE Gouvernement Impérial a eu l'honneur de recevoir la note par laquelle les Gouvernements Français et Espagnol, animés, comme le Cabinet de Berlin, du désir d'aborder, sans retard, la solution des questions que soulève la nouvelle situation créée au Maroc par l'issue de la lutte entre les deux Sultans, ont bien voulu lui faire connaître leur manière de voir à ce sujet.

* Not printed. See No. 74 (Telegram to Sir F. Lascelles and other Representatives of 5th September).

La Chancellerie Impériale est heureuse de se trouver d'accord avec les Cabinets de Paris et de Madrid dans la pensée qu'il est de l'intérêt de toutes les Puissances Signataires de l'Acte Général d'Algésiras de se concerter en vue de l'attitude à prendre en présence de cette nouvelle situation. Estimant, comme eux, qu'il est désirable d'affirmer au regard du Maroc, la solidarité et l'accord des Puissances, le Gouvernement Impérial s'empresse de contribuer, dès à présent, pour sa part à l'établissement d'une entente de principe en se déclarant partisan de l'idée que la reconnaissance officielle du nouveau Maghzen, quelque désirable qu'il soit dans l'intérêt de l'apaisement du Maroc et de la reprise régulière des affaires d'en accélérer l'accomplissement, devrait être précédée de l'obtention de garanties et de satisfactions communes à tous les intérêts étrangers.

N'ayant point d'intérêts particuliers au Maroc, n'y aspirant ni à des avantages spéciaux ni à une position de faveur, ne s'inspirant que des principes consacrés par l'œuvre d'Algésiras, l'Allemagne éprouvera une véritable satisfaction à voir renaître dans l'Empire Chérifien le calme, la paix, et la sécurité et à y voir s'établir un ordre de choses représentant la mise en pratique complète et définitive des dispositions générales et particulières de l'Acte d'Algésiras.

Partant de ces points de vue généraux, le Gouvernement Allemand, après un examen attentif et approfondi des propositions que les Gouvernements Français et Espagnol ont bien voulu lui présenter croit pouvoir exposer sa manière de voir ainsi qu'il suit :—

Le Gouvernement Impérial est tout prêt à s'associer à une démarche ayant pour but de faire donner par Muley Hafid les garanties requises par la situation.

Ces garanties devant être inspirées par les intérêts communs de tous les étrangers, le Gouvernement Allemand est d'avis qu'afin d'accentuer la solidarité de l'entente des Puissances, la démarche dont il s'agit devra être faite par le Corps Diplomatique résidant à Tanger par l'entremise de son doyen, procédé qui a été suivi lorsqu'il s'est agi d'obtenir l'adhésion à l'Acte Général d'Algésiras du Sultan Abdul Aziz.

Sous ce rapport, il paraît de bon augure que le Corps Diplomatique de Tanger ait été récemment saisi d'une lettre de Muley Hafid contenant la notification formelle de son avènement au trône et demandant sa reconnaissance. Dans cette lettre le Sultan donne des assurances formelles et précises sur la manière dont il entend gouverner, et notamment sur sa ferme intention de se conformer en tous points à l'Acte d'Algésiras et aux autres obligations contiguës à cet Acte.

Le Gouvernement Impérial estime que cette lettre constitue un fait nouveau dont la portée ne saurait échapper à l'attention des Puissances, et il aime à espérer que les Gouvernements de France et d'Espagne, dans un esprit d'équité et de haute sagesse, seront prêts à examiner la question de savoir si les conditions formulées dans leur note ne pourraient pas, pour une certaine part, être considérées comme satisfaites par la lettre de Muley Hafid.

Pour ce qui est du détail des garanties proposées, les observations suivantes se présentent, toujours sous les réserves qui découlent des remarques précédentes concernant la lettre de Muley Hafid.

Il conviendrait que le Sultan déclarât adhérer d'une façon générale à toutes les dispositions de l'Acte d'Algésiras ainsi qu'à tous les Règlements d'application prévus par cet Acte et établis ou approuvés par le Corps Diplomatique de Tanger, aux Commissions instituées en vertu de ces Règlements, aux décisions Chérifiennes et mesures quelconques prises à ce sujet dans l'exercice du droit public Marocain.

De même, le Gouvernement Impérial n'a pas d'objection à la confirmation des droits conférés, à titre transitoire, à la France et à l'Espagne, avec l'agrément des Puissances, pour la surveillance sur mer de la contrebande des armes. Il y a, d'ailleurs, lieu de faire remarquer que ces droits expirent à la fin de l'année courante.

D'autre part, le Gouvernement Impérial est tout disposé à reconnaître, en principe, que le nouveau Gouvernement Marocain devra accepter l'ensemble des autres Traités et Arrangements conclus par les précédents Souverains du Maroc avec les Puissances, les Arrangements passés avec le Corps Diplomatique et même les contrats avec les particuliers ; qu'il devra, en outre, assumer la responsabilité des dettes contractées par Abdul Aziz pendant la période de sa souveraineté. Il est bien entendu que les contrats passés avec les particuliers et les dettes créées à une époque postérieure à la mise en vigueur de l'Acte d'Algésiras ne pourraient être reconnus qu'autant qu'ils se trouveraient être conformes aux prescriptions de cet Acte. Les contrats et dettes non conformes à ces prescriptions ne pourraient pas figurer, à l'avis du Gouvernement Allemand, parmi les obligations à présenter au Sultan au nom de la totalité des Puissances.

Le règlement des dommages causés par les troubles de Casablanca se poursuivra

utilement devant la Commission Internationale actuellement en fonction, dont le Sultan aurait à confirmer les attributions.

Le Gouvernement Impérial est prêt à proposer, avec les autres Gouvernements, au Sultan, qu'il manifeste publiquement et officiellement au regard de son peuple sa ferme intention d'entretenir avec les Gouvernements étrangers et leurs nationaux des relations conformes au droit des gens, et qu'il s'engage à préparer dès à présent toutes les mesures nécessaires pour établir la sécurité et la liberté des communications dans l'Empire Chérifien.

Ne mettant pas en doute les intentions pacifiques de Muley Hafid, le Gouvernement Impérial estime toutefois qu'il conviendrait de lui laisser une certaine liberté d'action afin d'éviter une nouvelle effervescence parmi la population Musulmane et le renouvellement d'événements qui compromettraient sérieusement l'établissement d'un Gouvernement stable, seule garantie d'un développement qui soit conforme aux intérêts communs des Puissances.

Le Gouvernement Allemand reconnaît qu'il appartient aux Gouvernements Français et Espagnol de régler avec le Maroc la question des frais de leurs opérations militaires et leurs réclamations motivées par le meurtre de leurs nationaux. Il a la confiance que les Gouvernements Français et Espagnol tiendront compte du fait que la situation financière du Maroc présente un intérêt général.

Enfin, le Gouvernement Impérial ne voit pas d'inconvénient à ce que le nouveau Sultan soit invité à régler d'une manière honorable et équitable la situation personnelle d'Abdul Aziz et de ses fonctionnaires.

[33655] No. 120.

Sir F. Bertie to Sir Edward Grey.—(*Received September* 29.)

(No. 368. Confidential.)

Paris, September 29, 1908.

Sir,

I WENT to the Quai d'Orsay this afternoon to endeavour to obtain some information in regard to the incident at Casa Blanca. I saw M. Pichon, who was expecting a visit from the German Chargé d'Affaires, Baron von Lancken. His Excellency told me that the French Government had not yet received a detailed account, but they believed that the German Consulate at Casa Blanca had constituted itself a sort of agency for desertion. Of the six deserters who had been received at the Consulate, and were, when arrested by the French authorities, being conducted by the Consul's Secretary and a native employé to the Quai for embarkation on a German vessel, there were three who claimed to be Germans, one Austrian, one Pole, and one Swiss. M. Pichon's view, which, he said, required confirmation by a person versed in international law, was that in a country in military occupation by a foreign Power, it was not the law of the land which prevailed, and still less so extra-territorial rights, but the law of the occupying army; and even if this were not so, the German Consulate could have no right of protection in regard to the Austrian, the Pole, and the Swiss. He did not know what Baron von Lancken might have been instructed to say on the subject of the incident, but he intended to tell him that the French Government had called for a full report on it, and until it had been received and considered, they would not be in a position to discuss the incident. He might probably give to Baron von Lancken his view of the legal position in a country in military occupation, and point out to him that whatever rights the German Consul might have as regards Germans he could not have the right to receive and aid to escape on board a German vessel persons of other nationalities. His Excellency stated that he did not regard the matter as very serious. If, however, the German Government made much of it he would be inclined to offer to Prince Bülow, who had lately made a speech in favour of arbitration, to refer the question to The Hague Tribunal.

A person who saw M. Clemenceau this morning informed me that he was much irritated at the proceedings of the German Consul at Casa Blanca, which, as far as they were known to him, were quite unjustifiable, and said that incidents of that kind produced a state of public opinion which was not conducive to good relations, and even endangered peace. As Minister of War in the absence of General Picquart, he had telegraphed to General d'Amade for a full report, and my informant gathered that M. Clemenceau did not intend to hurry its receipt.

I have, &c.
(Signed) FRANCIS BERTIE.

52
END

[33797] No. 121.

Sir F. Bertie to Sir Edward Grey.—(*Received September* 30.)

(No. 370.)

Paris, September 29, 1908.

Sir,

WITH reference to my despatch No. 368 of yesterday's date, on the subject of the attempted escape of six deserters from Casa Blanca, I have the honour to inform you that the following communiqué appeared in the press respecting the visit of the German Chargé d'Affaires to M. Pichon, to which I made allusion in my despatch above mentioned:—

". . . . L'entretien a été très courtois, et les dispositions les plus conciliantes ont été manifestées de part et d'autre. Au cours de la conversation M. Pichon a fait observer qu'il fallait, avant de discuter la question au fond, connaître les faits avec précision. Il a déclaré qu'un exposé complet de ces faits avait été demandé télégraphiquement au Général d'Amade."

The press in general comments in a moderate manner on the incident. A leading article in the "Temps" of last night, which I inclose herein,* sets forth the two positions which can presumably be adopted with regard to the matter. It remarks that the intervention of the German Consulate at Casa Blanca must be considered much more blameworthy if it be proved that some of the deserters were not of German nationality. It expresses the hope, however, that the two Governments will examine the affair in perfect loyalty, and will be able to arrive at a satisfactory solution.

The "Figaro" remarks that the case presents elements of the most complicated kind, that it is the sort of problem in international law which examiners would be happy to find to puzzle the candidates whom they were examining. It is to be hoped, however, that means will be found to close the incident in a friendly manner.

Communication has also been made to the press of a telegraphic report from General d'Amade. The General states that he has in his possession an order written by the German Consul by which the clerk ("chancelier") of the Consulate is directed to assist in the embarkation of six persons. It would appear that of these six deserters, one is an Austrian, another a Swiss, and the third a Russian Pole. General d'Amade states that the French sailors did not strike the Consulate officials first. A Moorish employé of the Consulate struck the first blow, and the clerk also used violence.

I have, &c.
(Signed) FRANCIS BERTIE.

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* Not printed.